

TRI-STATE AREA

Military Searching for West Point Cadet Who Went Missing With Rifle

Officers learned of the cadet's disappearance after he failed to report for a military skills competition at academy



The missing cadet was last seen on Friday at about 5:30 p.m. on the grounds of West Point, officials say. PHOTO: SETH WENIG/ASSOCIATED PRESS

By Ben Chapman

Oct. 21, 2019 2:56 pm ET

A massive search is under way for a West Point cadet who disappeared with his rifle on Friday amid training exercises at the U.S. Military Academy, officials said Monday.

The cadet is a member of the academy's class of 2021. Officials declined to provide his name.

The cadet's weapon, a M4 rifle, is also missing, the officials said, but the cadet isn't believed to have any magazines or ammunition. There is no indication the cadet poses a threat to the public but he may be a danger to himself, according to the officials.

"I want to thank the local and state law enforcement agencies and emergency services for their tireless support," Lt. Gen. Darryl Williams, superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy, said in a

statement issued Monday. “We will continue to search with all means possible, on and off West Point. Safely locating the cadet remains our focus and number one priority.”

The missing cadet was last seen on Friday at about 5:30 p.m. on the grounds of West Point, according to the officials. West Point officers learned of the cadet’s disappearance after he failed to report for a military skills competition at the academy, the officials said.

Other West Point cadets immediately started a search for their classmate, according to the officials. When they were unable to locate him, military police began a search. That effort began at about 1 a.m. Saturday and continued throughout the day. West Point personnel searched through academic and athletic facilities and cadet barracks.

The New York State Police and Orange County Sheriff’s Department have been notified, the officials said.

After a canvas of local hospitals and emergency rooms uncovered no clues, West Point officers contacted the Coast Guard, which commenced a search of nearby waterways on Sunday morning just before dawn, according to the officials.

Later that morning, a New York State Police helicopter conducted an aerial sweep of West Point and surrounding areas with an infrared radar system, the officials said. The police also provided dogs and drones to aid in the search, according to the officials.

A West Point cadet died in June after a troop vehicle rolled over on the way to a summer training exercise at the U.S. Military Academy. Nineteen other cadets and two soldiers were injured in the accident, which took place near the Camp Buckner and Natural Bridge training sites.

Write to Ben Chapman at Ben.Chapman@wsj.com