

FORGET FOOT PATROL: DEPUTIES SCOOTING THREE-WHEELERS FIGHT PALMDALE'S CRIME AT SPEEDS UP TO 18 MPH

Date: Jul 9, 2007

Words: 301

Publication: Daily News (Los Angeles, CA)

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PALMDALE -- Palmdale sheriff's deputies have a new crime-fighting tool.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department issued two electric patrol scooters to Palmdale station last month for use patrolling the Antelope Valley Mall and surrounding shopping centers.

The T3Motion three-wheel scooters top out at 18 mph and can go about 20 miles on a charge.

Sheriff's deputies say the scooters allow them to patrol a larger area in less time than a patrol car, and give them greater visibility than bicycles.

Palmdale deputies had use of the scooters for a two-week trial period earlier this year on loan from the manufacturer. The department apparently liked what it saw -- it purchased 15 scooters last month.

Palmdale sheriff's Deputy Dave Jennings cited an arrest in the outskirts of the mall of a strong-armed robber made during the first week of the trial as an example of the scooter's effectiveness.

"It's going to save some wear and tear on the deputies' feet, and the mobility and the ease to get around to anywhere on that property is going to be greatly enhanced without them having to rely on that car all the time," Jennings said.

The scooters make deputies more approachable, says Deputy Jason Lasley, who's assigned to patrol the mall.

"It makes me a lot more personable, that's what I really like about it," Lasley said. "People come up and talk to you and ask questions who wouldn't if I was on foot or in a (patrol) car."

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Photo:

Sheriff's Deputy Jay Lasley demonstrates the T3Motion three-wheel scooter. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department issued two electric patrol scooters to Palmdale station last month for use patrolling the Antelope Valley Mall and surrounding shopping centers.

Jeff Goldwater/Staff Photographer

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