

# SCOOTERS GIVE MALL DEPUTIES A LIFT MANUFACTURER LOANS A THREE-WHEELED RIDE, WHICH PROVIDES SPEED, HEIGHT.

*Date:* Feb 4, 2007

*Words:* 404

*Publication:* Daily News (Los Angeles, CA)

Byline: GIDEON RUBIN Staff Writer

PALMDALE -- Sheriff's Deputy Jason Lasley was at the food court in the center of Palmdale's Antelope Valley Mall when two frazzled teens approached him saying they had just been just been robbed in the parking lot.

Lasley jumped on his T3Motion electric scooter, and after a quick patrol of the parking lot and an adjacent strip mall, nabbed two suspects within minutes.

Lasley said that without use of the scooter, he might not have been able to make the arrest.

"I was able to zip out to the corner of 10th Street West and Rancho Vista (Boulevard), and there they were," Lasley said. "In a regular patrol car, it takes several minutes just to get to your car."

The scooter's manufacturer loaned it to the sheriff's deputies patrolling the mall for the past two weeks. The county Sheriff's Department is weighing purchasing about a dozen or so such vehicles for law enforcement use at sites such as malls.

The three-wheel T3Motion scooters are designed specifically for use by the military and law enforcement.

They are similar in design to popular two-wheel versions that are used recreationally.

Lasley said the scooters top out at a 25mph speed, although the ones on loan to the Sheriff's Department are calibrated to travel no faster than 18mph.

Their maximum range is 25miles on a full charge.

In addition to speed and mobility, the scooters provide riders with better visibility, standing on a 1-foot-tall platform off the ground.

"I can patrol the entire parking lot in about 20 minutes," Lasley said. "That's going up and down each aisle and looking inside each car."

"I can look inside every window and see what's going on."

He said it's also made patrolling the mall more fun, and it has helped establish a better relationship with shoppers, especially kids.

``It's been a real positive influence here at the mall," Lasley said.

``Kids want to see it, and they want to get there pictures taken with it. Also, it makes the mall look more updated."

gideon.rubin@dailynews.com

(661) 267-7802

CAPTION(S):

2 photos

Photo:

(1 -- color) Sheriff's Deputy Jay Lasley shows how the T3Motion electric scooter works at the Antelope Valley Mall on Friday.

(2 -- color) Palmdale sheriff's deputies test the T3Motion electric scooter at the Antelope Valley Mall on Friday. The county Sheriff's Department is weighing purchasing some of the vehicles.

Jeff Goldwater/Staff Photographer

---

COPYRIGHT 2007 Daily News

Copyright 2007, Gale Group. All rights reserved. Gale Group is a Thomson Corporation Company.