

LASD Deputy Gary Debondt of the Sheriff's Transit Services patrols the El Monte bus terminal aboard a Segway.



### **Sheriffs on Segways Patrol El Monte Bus Station**

By LISA HUYNH

(June 3, 2003) Sheriff's deputies rolled into El Monte Bus Station the last week of May aboard Segways, bringing a new level of safety and security along with the advanced technology glide of the latest in human transporter devices.

"This is part of the Sheriff's efforts of providing security at the bus terminal and at the San Gabriel Valley Sector," said Community Relations Manager Helen Ortiz.

Deputy Gary Debondt and Sergeant Paul Henry from the Sheriff's Transit Services Substation in El Monte circulate the terminal on Segways on a regular basis. The attention-getting scooters facilitate and even generate interaction with the passengers.

The Segway scooters were first used at train stations in a pilot program earlier this year. Lieutenant Mike Herek of the Sheriff's Transit Services Eastside Bus Operations directed efforts to put the human transporter devices to work at bus terminals.

"There are hundreds and hundreds of people that go to the El Monte station," said Lt. Herek. "The Segways provide another level of safety."

"We've gotten a lot of positive feedback from the passengers when we deployed the Segways at the terminal last week," said Lt. Herek.

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