

Going green saves green at Barstow

By Scott Woosley

Recent innovations at Defense Distribution Depot Barstow, Calif., are not only helping protect the environment, but also saving money and benefiting employees.

DDBC recently purchased four Segway stand-up personal transportation devices and installed solar lighting at its outdoor storage areas as energy-saving measures.

The purchases were made to help employees move more quickly around the installation and warehouses and to provide better lighting at several outside storage areas.

“Based on the Anti-Terrorism Force Protection survey, we needed better lighting in our outside storage areas and buildings,” said Andrew Konrady, DDBC’s director. “We had the solar lighting installed to correct that.”

While installing the solar lighting was initially more expensive, Konrady realized that there were benefits that would save more money over the long term. There was no digging to lay cables or wires for the lights and there were no electrical costs. The lights also come with a 25-year warranty, so maintenance wouldn’t be a big cost either.

According to estimates from his staff, Konrady says the solar lights will save DDBC more than \$5,000 each year in electricity costs. Also, since no digging, laying wire, or environmental



Employees at Defense Distribution Depot Barstow, Calif., try out the new Segways purchased to help employees move around the installation more efficiently.

impact studies were required to install the lights, DDBC avoided paying additional installation costs.

But Konrady says one benefit far surpasses the others.

“Electrical power outages have no effect,” he said. “They’re solar.”

The Segways were purchased to provide a cheap, efficient way for employees to get around the installation.

The Segways are battery-operated, so they provide an energy efficient option to using a gas-powered vehicle and they are faster than walking.

Three of the Segways are conventional models that can be used in and around the warehouses. The fourth is designed for more rugged terrain.

“We purchased the x2 model for our unimproved storage areas and for use at the railhead at Yermo,” Konrady said.

The three i2 models were primarily purchased for the use of the Inventory Action Team. The Segways fit through doors and can easily maneuver in any warehouse environment, according to Konrady. They’re easily rechargeable and can travel up to 25 miles on a single charge. This makes it easy for the team to accomplish their mission more efficiently.

Even more impressive from Konrady’s perspective is the cost.

“They cost approximately 12 cents a day to operate and are about a third of the price of an electrical cart,” he explained. “They have no maintenance requirement, except to keep the tires properly inflated.”

The lighting and the Segways have reduced costs and improved efficiency while allowing DDBC to look out for the environment at the same time.

“We’re just trying to do our part in staying green,” Konrady said. “We just happen to be saving some green in the process.”



Pictured here is one of the 75 solar lights that Defense Distribution Depot Barstow, Calif., installed around its storage areas.

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