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T3s replace Segways for deputies (with VIDEO)

[Robbyn Brooks](#)

Wednesday May 7th, 2008

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SHALIMAR — Things are rolling along when it comes to new technology at the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office.

Seized drug money bought two new vehicles that will be used at Okaloosa Regional Airport to replace worn out Segways that sheriff's deputies have been using since 2005.

Before the Segways were put in place, deputies walked between 16 and 20 miles at the airport on some days.

"Everything new and innovative eventually gets replaced with a better product," said David Hartman with T3 Motion, a company that boasts it has the "next generation law enforcement tool."

The T3 is a battery-operated vehicle that rolls on three wheels, which makes it more stable than a Segway. Riders can trade out batteries to keep working. The transport even has lights, a speedometer and a siren.



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“This is easy,” Maj. Larry Ashley said Tuesday as he tried the transport out in front of the Sheriff’s Office’s administration building in Shalimar.

The T3 isn’t available to the public at this time, but law enforcement and governmental agencies nationwide already have them in place. Broward County is using 10 of them, Hartman said.

“This is far better” than a Segway, said Sheriff Charlie Morris. “If your equilibrium is off on those, you could hurt yourself quickly.”

The T3 can carry some cargo, too. The maximum capacity is 450 pounds.

The units will be shipped from California and are customizable, so they’ll match other vehicles in the Sheriff’s Office’s fleet. Each transporter costs \$9,500 and batteries are \$1,175, said Hartman. That’s well over the \$3,350 the department spent on each Segway.

However, in some cases a T3 can move twice as fast as a Segway and is expected to far outlive its predecessor.

There is no specific timetable for the T3s to arrive.

If they work out at the airport, Morris said he’ll consider using them at larger high schools in the county.

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