ALASKA AIR GROUP, INC.

Form 4

February 11, 2016

FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

OMB

Expires:

3235-0287 Number: January 31,

OMB APPROVAL

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SECURITIES Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934,

obligations Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section may continue. 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 See Instruction

1(b).

(City)

(State)

(Zip)

(Print or Type Responses)

| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * MINICUCCI BENITO | | | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol ALASKA AIR GROUP, INC. [ALK] | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) | | | |
|--|------------------|----------|---|---|--|--|--|
| (Last) 19300 INTER | (First) NATIONAL | (Middle) | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 02/09/2016 | Director 10% Owner Officer (give title Other (specify below) EVP/OPS & COO | | | |
| | (Street) | | 4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year) | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person | | | |
| SEATTLE, W | 'A 98188 | | | Form filed by More than One Reporting Person | | | |

| • | | Table 1 - 1 | Non-Deriva | ative Secui | illes A | Acquirea | , Disposed of, of | Deficially | Owneu |
|--------------------------------|---|---|---|--------------|---------|-------------|--|---|---|
| 1.Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. 4. Securities Acquired Transaction(A) or Disposed of (D) Code (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) (Instr. 8) | | | of (D) | Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
| RESTRICTED STOCK UNIT | 02/09/2016 | | Code V A(2) | Amount 5,000 | or (D) | Price | Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) 28,530 | (Instr. 4) | |
| COMMON STOCK | 02/09/2016 | | A(3) | 14,490 | A | \$ 0 | 59,194 | D | |
| COMMON STOCK | 02/09/2016 | | F(4) | 5,347 | D | \$ 65.63 | 53,847 | D | |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired Disposed of or Reneficially Owned

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number.

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. 5. Number of TransactionDerivative Code Securities (Instr. 8) Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, | | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | | 7. Title and Am Underlying Sec (Instr. 3 and 4) |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|---|--|---------|--|--------------------|---|
| | | | | Code V | (A) (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title |
| EMPLOYEE STOCK OPTION (RT TO BUY) | \$ 65.63 | 02/09/2016 | | A | 12,000 | 02/09/2017(1) | 02/09/2026 | COMMON STOCK |

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

MINICUCCI BENITO 19300 INTERNATIONAL BLVD

EVP/OPS & COO

Signatures

SEATTLE, WA 98188

/S/ JEANNE E. GAMMON, ATTORNEY IN FACT FOR BENITO MINICUCCI

02/11/2016

**Signature of Reporting Person

Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).
- ** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) OPTIONS VEST IN 25% INCREMENTS OVER FOUR YEARS (02/09/2017, 02/09/2018, 02/09/2019 AND 02/09/2020).
- (2) STOCK UNITS AWARDED UNDER THE ALASKA AIR GROUP, INC. 2008 PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE PLAN ON 02/09/2016 WILL CLIFF VEST ON 02/09/2019. UNITS ARE SUBJECT TO FORFEITURE.
- ALK COMMON SHARES ISSUED UPON ATTAINING PERFORMANCE GOALS SET FOR A THREE-YEAR PERIOD ENDING 12/31/2015, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF PERFORMANCE STOCK UNITS GRANTED ON 02/11/2013 UNDR THE ISSUER'S 2008 PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE PLAN; PER APPROVAL BY THE BOARD'S COMPENSATION AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE ON 02/09/2016.
- (4) COMMON SHARES FORFEITED TO COVER PAYROLL TAXES UPON VESTING OF PERFORMANCE STOCK UNITS ON 02/09/2016. AMOUNT PROVIDED IN COLUMN 4 REPRESENTS THE FMV OF THE SHARES ON THE DATE OF FORFEITURE.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.

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