

FORM 4**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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☐ Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* <u>SPRAGUE JOSEPH A</u> (Last) (First) (Middle) <u>19300 INTERNATIONAL BLVD</u> (Street) <u>SEATTLE WA 98188</u> (City) (State) (Zip) | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>ALASKA AIR GROUP, INC. [ALK]</u> | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) Director 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) <u>SR VP/COMM & EXT RELATIONS</u> |
| | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) <u>02/10/2015</u> | |
| 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) | | |

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | | | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|------------|---------|---|--|---|
| | | | Code | V | Amount | (A) or (D) | Price | | | |
| COMMON STOCK 401(K) ⁽¹⁾ | | | | | | | | 7,049 | I | ESOP TRUST |
| COMMON STOCK | 02/10/2015 | | A ⁽²⁾ | | 5,544 | A | \$0 | 21,188 | D | |
| RESTRICTED STOCK UNIT | 02/10/2015 | | A ⁽⁴⁾ | | 1,550 | A | \$0 | 11,510 | D | |
| COMMON STOCK | 02/10/2015 | | F ⁽⁵⁾ | | 1,517 | D | \$63.51 | 19,671 | D | |

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. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | | 7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4) | | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4) | 10. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|-----|--|-----------------|---|----------------------------|--|--|---|--|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | Code | V | (A) | (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares | | | | |
| EMPLOYEE STOCK OPTION (RT TO BUY) | \$65.37 | 02/10/2015 | | A | | 3,530 | | 02/10/2016 ⁽³⁾ | 02/10/2025 | COMMON STOCK | 3,530 | \$0 | 3,530 | D | |

Explanation of Responses:

- COMMON SHARES HELD IN THE ALASKA AIR GROUP INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP 401(K) PLAN TRUST AS OF 12/31/14.
- ALK COMMON SHARES ISSUED UPON ATTAINING PERFORMANCE GOALS SET FOR A THREE-YEAR PERIOD ENDING 12/31/2014, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF PERFORMANCE STOCK UNITS GRANTED ON 2/14/2012 UNDER THE ISSUER'S 2008 PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE PLAN; PER APPROVAL BY THE BOARD'S COMPENSATION COMMITTEE ON 2/10/2015.
- OPTIONS GRANTED VEST IN 25% INCREMENTS OVER FOUR YEARS (02/10/2016, 02/10/2017, 02/10/2018 AND 02/10/2019).
- STOCK UNITS AWARDED UNDER THE ALASKA AIR GROUP, INC. 2008 PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE PLAN ON 2/10/2015 WILL CLIFF VEST ON 2/10/2018. UNITS ARE SUBJECT TO FORFEITURE.
- COMMON SHARES FORFEITED TO COVER PAYROLL TAXES UPON VESTING OF PERFORMANCE STOCK UNITS ON 02/10/2015. AMOUNT PROVIDED IN COLUMN 4 REPRESENTS THE FMV OF THE SHARES ON THE DATE OF FORFEITURE.

/S/ JEANNE E GAMMON,
ATTORNEY-IN-FACT FOR 02/12/2015
JOSEPH A. SPRAGUE

** Signature of Reporting Person Date

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

* 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).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.