

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>MINICUCCI BENITO</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>EVP/OPS & COO</u>
	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) <u>12/01/2011</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	12/01/2011		M		820	A	\$23.36	3,927	D	
COMMON STOCK	12/01/2011		S		820	D	\$69.75	3,107	D	
COMMON STOCK	12/05/2011		A ⁽¹⁾		12,710	A	\$0	15,817	D	
RESTRICTED STOCK UNIT ⁽²⁾	12/05/2011		J ⁽³⁾		12,710	D	\$0	27,690	D	
RESTRICTED STOCK UNIT ⁽²⁾	12/05/2011		F ⁽⁴⁾		7,290	D	\$69.66	20,400	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)	\$23.36	12/01/2011		M			820	11/06/2008	11/06/2017	COMMON STOCK	820	\$0	0	D	

Explanation of Responses:

- NET COMMON SHARES ISSUED UPON VESTING OF STOCK UNITS ON DECEMBER 5, 2011.
- STOCK UNITS AWARDED UNDER THE ALASKA AIR GROUP, INC. 2008 PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE PLAN; SUBJECT TO FORFEITURE.
- RSUs WERE FULLY VESTED AND ISSUED ON DECEMBER 5, 2011.
- STOCK UNITS WITHHELD TO COVER PAYROLL TAXES UPON VESTING OF RSUs ON DECEMBER 5, 2011. NET SHARES ISSUED.

/s/ Jeanne Gammon Attorney-in-Fact for Benito Minicucci 12/05/2011

** 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.