

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> 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) <u>02/14/2017</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>PRES & COO</u>
	4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)	6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

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 ⁽¹⁾	02/14/2017		A ⁽²⁾		10,465 ⁽¹⁾	A	\$0	83,163	D	
COMMON STOCK ⁽¹⁾	02/14/2017		F ⁽⁵⁾		4,391	D	\$96.3	78,772	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				
RESTRICTED STOCK UNITS	\$0 ⁽³⁾	02/14/2017		A		4,400		02/14/2020	02/14/2027	COMMON STOCK	4,400	\$0	4,400	D	
EMPLOYEE STOCK OPTION (RT TO BUY)	\$96.3	02/14/2017		A		10,130		02/14/2018 ⁽⁴⁾	02/14/2027	COMMON STOCK	10,130	\$0	10,130	D	

Explanation of Responses:

1. INCLUDES 2,440, 4,990 and 5,000 UNVESTED RESTRICTED STOCK UNITS GRANTED ON 5/12/2014, 2/10/2015, AND 2/9/2016, RESPECTIVELY, UNDER THE ISSUER'S 2008 PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE PLAN; and 260 UNVESTED RESTRICTED STOCK UNITS GRANTED ON 5/12/2016 UNDER THE ISSUER'S 2016 PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE PLAN.
2. COMMON SHARES ISSUED UPON ATTAINING PERFORMANCE GOALS SET FOR A THREE-YEAR PERIOD ENDING 12/31/2016 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF A PERFORMANCE STOCK UNIT AWARD GRANTED ON 2/11/2014 UNDER THE ISSUER'S 2008 PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE PLAN; PER APPROVAL BY THE BOARD'S COMPENSATION COMMITTEE ON 2/14/2017.
3. RESTRICTED STOCK UNITS CONVERT INTO COMMON STOCK ON A ONE-FOR-ONE BASIS.
4. OPTIONS VEST IN 25% INCREMENTS OVER FOUR YEARS (02/14/2018, 02/14/2019, 02/14/2020 and 02/14/2021).
5. COMMON SHARES FORFEITED TO COVER PAYROLL TAXES UPON VESTING OF PERFORMANCE STOCK UNITS ON 2/14/2017. AMOUNT PROVIDED IN COLUMN 4 REPRESENTS THE FMV OF THE SHARES ON THE DATE OF FORFEITURE.

/S/ JEANNE E. GAMMON,
ATTORNEY IN FACT FOR 02/16/2017
BENITO MINICUCCI

** 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.