

ALASKA AIR GROUP, INC.  
Form 4  
February 22, 2016

**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 OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
SPRAGUE JOSEPH A

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) (First) (Middle)  
19300 INTERNATIONAL BLVD  
(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
02/20/2016

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
\_\_\_\_ Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
SR VP/COMM & EXT RELATIONS

SEATTLE, WA 98188

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  
\_\_\_ Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

(City) (State) (Zip)

**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) |   |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|---|---|
| COMMON STOCK 401(K) <sup>(1)</sup>   |                                      |  |                                | (A) or (D)  | Price   |  |   |   |
|                                      |                                      |  | Code                           | V   | Amount  |  |   |   |
| COMMON STOCK 401(K) <sup>(1)</sup>   |                                      |  |                                |   | 7,049   | I  | ESOP TRUST  |   |
| RESTRICTED STOCK UNIT <sup>(2)</sup> |                                      |  |                                |   | 6,620   | D  |   |   |
| COMMON STOCK                         | 02/20/2016                           |  | J <sup>(3)</sup>               | 24,732  | A   | \$ 0   | 40,376  | D |
| COMMON STOCK                         | 02/20/2016                           |  | F <sup>(4)</sup>               | 10,251  | D   | \$ 72.34   | 30,125  | D |

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

**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 control number.**

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(9-02)

**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 Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 3 and 4) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--|--|
|  |  |                                      |  | Code                           | V (A) (D)   | Date Exercisable   | Expiration Date   | Title                                      | Amount or Number of Shares   |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                                    | Relationships |           |                            |       |
|---|---------------|-----------|----------------------------|-------|
|   | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer                    | Other |
| SPRAGUE JOSEPH A<br>19300 INTERNATIONAL BLVD<br>SEATTLE, WA 98188 |               |           | SR VP/COMM & EXT RELATIONS |       |

## Signatures

/S/ JEANNE E GAMMON, ATTORNEY-IN-FACT FOR JOSEPH A. SPRAGUE  
 Date: 02/22/2016  
 \*\*Signature of Reporting Person

## 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) COMMON SHARES HELD IN THE ALASKA AIR GROUP INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP 401(K) PLAN TRUST, AS OF 12/31/15.
- (2) STOCK UNITS AWARDED UNDER ALASKA AIR GROUP'S 2008 PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE PLAN; 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 UNDER THE ISSUER'S 2008 PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE PLAN; PER APPROVAL BY THE BOARD'S COMPENSATION AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE ON 02/20/2016.

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- (4) COMMON SHARES FORFEITED TO COVER PAYROLL TAXES UPON VESTING OF PERFORMANCE STOCK UNITS ON 02/20/2016. 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.