

ALASKA AIR GROUP INC
Form 8-K
April 04, 2003

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UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, DC 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

April 3, 2003
(Date of Report)

ALASKA AIR GROUP, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter) Commission file number 1-8957

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

91-1292054
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

19300 Pacific Highway South, Seattle, Washington 98188
(Address of principal executive offices)

(206) 431-7040
(Registrant's telephone number)

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ITEM 9. Regulation FD Disclosure

Signature

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In accordance with General Instruction B.2 of Form 8-K, the following information shall not be deemed filed for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act), nor shall such information be deemed incorporated by reference in any filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, except as shall be expressly set forth by specific reference in such a filing. This Report will not be deemed an admission as to the materiality of any information required to be disclosed solely to satisfy the requirements of Regulation FD.

FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION

This report may contain forward-looking statements that are based on the best information currently available to management. These forward-looking statements are intended to be subject to the safe harbor protection provided by Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Forward-looking statements are indicated by phrases such as will, should, the Company believes, we expect or any other language indicating a prediction of future events. There can be no assurance that actual developments will be those anticipated by the Company. Actual results could differ materially from those projected as a result of a number of factors, some of which the Company cannot predict or control. For a discussion of these factors, please see Item 1 of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2002. The Company expressly disclaims any duty to update these projections, and makes no representation as to their continued accuracy in the event it does not provide such updates.

Regulation FD Disclosure**First Quarter 2003 Estimates**

| | Forecast Q1 | Change Yr/Yr |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Alaska Airlines | | |
| Capacity (ASMs in millions) | 4,709 | 5.4% |
| Traffic (RPMs in millions) | 3,143 | 5.5% |
| Passenger load factor | 66.7% | 0.0pts |
| Fuel gallons (000,000) | 78.2 | 4.3% |
| Cost per ASM excluding fuel (cents) | 8.9 | 0.2% |

Alaska Airlines' March traffic decreased 0.4 percent to 1.153 billion revenue passenger miles (RPMs) from 1.158 billion flown a year earlier. Capacity during March was 1.651 billion available seat miles (ASMs), 1.7 percent higher than the 1.623 billion in March 2002. The passenger load factor (the percentage of available seats occupied by fare paying passengers) for March 2003 was 69.9 percent, compared to 71.4 percent in March 2002. The airline carried 1,187,600 passengers compared to 1,232,000 in March 2002.

For February 2003, revenue per available seat mile (RASM) increased by 0.8% as compared to February 2002. For January 2003, RASM decreased by 4.4% as compared to January 2002.

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| Horizon Air | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|----------|
| Capacity (ASMs in millions) | 616 | 15.9% |
| Traffic (RPMs in millions) | 357 | 8.6% |
| Passenger load factor | 58.1% | (3.9pts) |
| Fuel gallons (000,000) | 13.1 | 6.5% |
| Cost per ASM excluding fuel (cents) | 16.0 | (9.6%) |

Horizon Air's March traffic increased 4.6 percent to 129.9 million RPMs from 124.2 million flown a year earlier. Capacity for March was 215.7 million ASMs, 15.0 percent higher than last year's 187.6 million. The passenger load factor for March 2003 was 60.2 percent, compared to 66.2 percent last March. The airline carried 388,600 passengers compared to 406,000 in March 2002.

For February 2003, RASM decreased by 3.3% as compared to February 2002. For January 2003, RASM decreased by 8.6% as compared to January 2002.

Capacity Estimates for 2003

Provided below are capacity (ASMs in millions) for the full year of 2003:

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------|------|
| Alaska Airlines capacity | 20,694 | 6.9% |
| Horizon Air capacity | 2,611 | 7.6% |

Other Financial Information

Cash and Short-Term Investments

Cash and short-term investments amounted to approximately \$615 million at March 31, 2003 compared to \$547 million at February 28, 2003. The increase of \$68 million is principally due to the closing of a private offering of floating rate senior convertible notes due 2023 (net proceeds totaling \$123.2 million), offset by cash outflows for the delivery of one B737-700 aircraft and debt payments of \$26.2 million.

Fuel Cost per Gallon (including realized hedging gains)

| | <u>Cost per Gallon</u> | <u>% Change from Prior Year</u> |
|-------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Alaska: | | |
| January | 92.7 cents | 27.3% |
| February | 99.1 cents | 40.4% |
| March preliminary | 105.3 cents | 37.1% |
| Horizon: | | |
| January | 94.7 cents | 25.4% |
| February | 101.9 cents | 33.7% |
| March preliminary | 107.1 cents | 34.4% |

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Current fuel hedge positions for Alaska and Horizon are as follows:

| | Approximate % of Expected Fuel Requirements | Approximate Crude Oil Price per Barrel |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| January December 2003 | 35% | \$ 22 |

Operating Fleet Plan

Provided below are estimated changes in the Alaska and Horizon fleets for 2003:

| | Seats | On Hand YE 2002 | Estimated Change 2003 |
|------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Alaska Airlines | | | |
| B737-200C | 111 | 9 | |
| B737-400 | 138 | 40 | |
| B737-700 | 120 | 16 | 6 |
| B737-900 | 172 | 6 | 5 |
| MD-80 | 140 | 31 | (4) |
| | | — | — |
| Total | | 102 | 7 |
| | | — | — |
| Horizon Air | | | |
| Dash 8-100/200 | 37 | 28 | |
| Dash 8-400 | 70 | 15 | |
| F-28 | 69 | 4 | (4) |
| CRJ 700 | 70 | 16 | 2 |
| | | — | — |
| Total | | 63 | (2) |
| | | — | — |

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Signature

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

ALASKA AIR GROUP, INC.

Registrant

Date: April 3, 2003

Terri K. Maupin
Staff Vice President/Finance and Controller

Bradley D. Tilden
Executive Vice President/Finance and Chief Financial Officer