

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

**CURRENT REPORT
PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(D)
OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

Date of report (Date of earliest event reported): December 2, 2002

ALASKA AIR GROUP, INC.

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified
in its Charter)

Delaware

1-8957

91-1292054

(State or Other
Jurisdiction
of Incorporation)

(Commission File
Number)

(IRS
Employer Identification
Number)

19300 Pacific Highway South, Seattle, Washington

98188

(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code (206) 431-7040

TABLE OF CONTENTS

[ITEM 5. OTHER EVENTS](#)

[ITEM 7. EXHIBITS](#)

[SIGNATURES](#)

[EXHIBIT INDEX](#)

[EXHIBIT 99.1](#)

[Table of Contents](#)

ITEM 5. OTHER EVENTS

Effective December 2, 2002, the board of directors of Alaska Air Group, Inc. voted to increase the size of the board of directors from 12 to 13 directors and to appoint Jessie J. Knight Jr. to fill the additional seat on the corporation's board of directors. Mr. Knight has been appointed to the class of directors with a three year term expiring at the corporation's annual meeting of stockholders in May 2003.

The press release is attached as Exhibit 99.1 to this Current Report on Form 8-K and is incorporated herein by this reference.

ITEM 7. EXHIBITS

99.1 Press Release dated December 2, 2002

SIGNATURES

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 hereunto duly authorized.

ALASKA AIR GROUP, INC.

March 11, 2003

/s/ Terri K. Maupin

Terri K. Maupin
Staff Vice President/Finance and Controller

March 11, 2003

/s/ Bradley D. Tilden

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

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit No.	Description of Exhibit
99.1	Press Release dated December 2, 2002

ALASKA AIR GROUP APPOINTS KNIGHT TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS
12/2/2002 10:09 a.m.

SEATTLE -- Alaska Air Group, Inc. today announced the appointment of Jessie J. Knight, Jr. to the corporation's board of directors.

Knight, 52, is the president and chief executive officer of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce. He heads an organization of 3,000 plus members whose primary focus is the economic development of California's second largest city.

Before assuming his current position in 1999, Knight served almost six years as a commissioner of the California Public Utilities Commission. The commission, a five-member board appointed by the governor, is responsible for the regulatory oversight of all energy, telecommunications, shipping, railroad and investor-owned utilities within California. Immediately prior to that, he was executive vice president of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce where he oversaw international operations, economic development and the recruitment of new businesses to San Francisco.

"Alaska Air Group and its shareholders will benefit tremendously by having an individual of Jessie's caliber on the board," said John F. Kelly, chairman and chief executive officer. "His business acumen, public service experience and extensive knowledge of California will add a significant new dimension to our deliberations."

Knight's previous experience also includes serving as vice president of marketing for the San Francisco Newspaper Agency, a publishing operation encompassing the San Francisco Chronicle and the San Francisco Examiner. In addition, he held several senior positions for Dole Foods Company, including directing the marketing for that company's Dole Pineapple Division.

Knight is a member of the boards of Avista Corporation and Environmental Power Corporation. He is a standing member of the Council on Foreign Relations in New York.

Seattle-based Alaska Air Group is the parent company of Alaska Airlines and Horizon Air Industries.

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