Van de Ven Michael G Form 4 May 18, 2012

FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

OMB APPROVAL

OMB 3235-0287 Number:

January 31, Expires: 2005

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if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5

Check this box

SECURITIES Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, obligations Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section

may continue. See Instruction

1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Van de Ven Michael G Issuer Symbol SOUTHWEST AIRLINES CO (Check all applicable) [LUV] (Last) (First) (Middle) 3. Date of Earliest Transaction Director 10% Owner X_ Officer (give title _ _ Other (specify (Month/Day/Year) below) SOUTHWEST AIRLINES 05/16/2012 EVP & Chief Operating Officer CO., 2702 LOVE FIELD DRIVE (Street) 4. If Amendment, Date Original 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Filed(Month/Day/Year) Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting DALLAS, TX 75235-1908 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)	Code (Instr. 8)	Transaction(A) or Disposed of (D) Code (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) (Instr. 8) (A) or			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	05/16/2012		A	145,798 (1)	A	\$0	341,789	D			
Common Stock							518 (2)	I	By ProfitSharing Plan		

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

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(9-02)

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Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of	2.	3. Transaction Date	3A. Deemed	4.	5.	6. Date Exerc	cisable and	7. Title	and	8. Price of	9. Nu
Derivative	Conversion	(Month/Day/Year)	Execution Date, if	TransactionNumber		Expiration Date		Amoun	t of	Derivative	Deriv
Security	or Exercise		any	Code	of	(Month/Day/	Year)	Underly	ying	Security	Secui
(Instr. 3)	Price of		(Month/Day/Year)	(Instr. 8)	Derivative	e		Securit	ies	(Instr. 5)	Bene
	Derivative				Securities			(Instr. 3	3 and 4)		Own
	Security				Acquired						Follo
	•				(A) or						Repo
					Disposed						Trans
					of (D)						(Instr
					(Instr. 3,						
					4, and 5)						
									A manuat		
									Amount		
						Date	Expiration		Or		
						Exercisable	Date	Title Number of			
				C + V	(A) (D)						
				Code V	(A) (D)				Shares		

Reporting Owners

Relationships Reporting Owner Name / Address

> Officer 10% Owner Other Director

Van de Ven Michael G SOUTHWEST AIRLINES CO. 2702 LOVE FIELD DRIVE DALLAS, TX 75235-1908

EVP & Chief Operating Officer

Signatures

/s/ Marilyn R. Post, on behalf of and as attorney-in-fact for Michael G. Van de Ven

05/17/2012

**Signature of Reporting Person

Date

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).
 - Reflects the exempt acquisition of restricted stock units pursuant to the Southwest Airlines Co. Amended and Restated 2007 Equity
- (1) Incentive Plan. The restricted stock units will vest with respect to one-third of the shares covered thereby annually, beginning on May 16, 2013, and will entitle the reporting person to one share of common stock for each restricted stock unit that vests.
- (2) Holdings reflect exempt transactions under the Issuer's ProfitSharing Plan.

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.

Reporting Owners 2