

SOUTHWEST AIRLINES CO  
 Form 4  
 December 16, 2009

**FORM 4** UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
 Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
 Expires: January 31, 2009  
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**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 \*  
**RICKS RON**

(Last) (First) (Middle)

**SOUTHWEST AIRLINES  
 CO., 2702 LOVE FIELD DRIVE**

(Street)

**DALLAS, TX 75235-1611**

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
**SOUTHWEST AIRLINES CO  
 [LUV]**

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
 (Month/Day/Year)  
**12/14/2009**

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)  
**EVP & Corporate Secretary**

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 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 or Price   |  |   |
| Common Stock                    | 12/14/2009                           |  | M                              |   | 15,926 A \$ 10.35   | 68,430 <sup>(1)</sup>                                    | D   |
| Common Stock                    | 12/14/2009                           |  | S                              |   | 6,825 D \$ 10.82  | 61,605   | D   |
| Common Stock                    | 12/14/2009                           |  | S                              |   | 7,401 D \$ 10.84  | 54,204   | D   |
| Common Stock                    | 12/14/2009                           |  | S                              |   | 1,700 D \$ 10.846   | 52,504   | D   |

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

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SEC 1474  
(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) |              |                            |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--------------|----------------------------|
|  |  |                                      |  | Code                           | V (A) (D)   | Date Exercisable   | Expiration Date   | Title        | Amount or Number of Shares |
| Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)       | \$ 10.35   | 12/14/2009                           |  | M                              | 15,926  | (2) 01/19/2010   |   | Common Stock | 15,926                     |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address  | Relationships |           |                                 |       |
|---|---------------|-----------|---------------------------------|-------|
|   | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer                         | Other |
| RICKS RON<br>SOUTHWEST AIRLINES CO.<br>2702 LOVE FIELD DRIVE<br>DALLAS, TX 75235-1611 |               |           | EVP &<br>Corporate<br>Secretary |       |

## Signatures

/s/Ron Ricks 12/16/2009

\*\*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).
- (1) Includes shares acquired pursuant to dividend reinvestments in exempt transactions.
- (2) The option vested in installments and was 100% vested at the time of exercise.

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.