

FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* <u>RICKS RON</u> (Last) (First) (Middle) <u>SOUTHWEST AIRLINES CO.</u> <u>2702 LOVE FIELD DRIVE</u> (Street) <u>DALLAS TX 75235-1611</u> (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>SOUTHWEST AIRLINES CO [LUV]</u> 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) <u>12/14/2009</u> 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) Director 10% Owner X Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) <u>EVP & Corporate Secretary</u> 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person
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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	(A) or (D)	Price			
Common Stock	12/14/2009		M		15,926	A	\$10.35	68,430 ⁽¹⁾	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	

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 Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4)		8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 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	\$0	0	D	

Explanation of Responses:

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.

Remarks:

/s/Ron Ricks

12/16/2009

** Signature of Reporting Person

Date

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

* 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).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

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 Number.

POWER OF ATTORNEY

Know all by these presents, that the undersigned hereby constitutes and appoints each of Laura Wright, Marilyn Post, and Mark Shaw, signing singly, the undersigned's true and lawful (1) execute for and on behalf of the undersigned, in the undersigned's capacity as an Officer and/or Director of Southwest Airlines Co. (the "Company"), Forms 3, 4, and 5 in accordance (2) do and perform any and all acts for and on behalf of the undersigned which may be necessary or desirable to complete and execute any such Form 3, 4, or 5, complete and execute any (3) take any other action of any type whatsoever in connection with the foregoing which, in the opinion of such attorney-in-fact, may be of benefit to, in the best interest of, or legal. The undersigned hereby grants to each such attorney-in-fact full power and authority to do and perform any and every act and thing whatsoever requisite, necessary, or proper to be

This Power of Attorney shall remain in full force and effect until the undersigned is no longer required to file Forms 3, 4, and 5 with respect to the undersigned's holdings of an

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has caused this Power of Attorney to be executed as of this 4th day of August, 2009.

Signature /s/ Ron Ricks

Print Name Ron Ricks