

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

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP**

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*<br><b>MENDOZA THOMAS F</b><br><br>(Last) (First) (Middle)<br><b>495 EAST JAVA DRIVE</b><br><br>(Street)<br><b>SUNNYVALE CA 94089</b><br><br>(City) (State) (Zip) | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol<br><b>NETWORK APPLIANCE INC [ NTAP ]</b> | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)<br><br>Director 10% Owner<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)<br><b>President</b> |
|   | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)<br><b>12/09/2004</b>                |   |
| 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)  |  |   |

**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                    | 12/09/2004                           |  | M                              |   | 260,000   | A          | \$11.25  | 2,011,725   | D  |   |
| Common Stock                    | 12/09/2004                           |  | S                              |   | 260,000   | D          | \$32.162 | 1,751,725   | D  |   |
| Common Stock                    |                                      |  |                                |   |   |            |          | 192,377   | I  | by Spouse   |

**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 |
| Non-Qualified Stock Option (right to buy)  | \$11.25  | 12/09/2004                           |  | M                              |   |  | 260,000 | (I)  | 05/24/2009      | Common Stock  | 260,000                                    | \$0  | 260,000   | D  |       |

**Explanation of Responses:**

1. Option vests with respect to 25% of the option shares on the first anniversary of the grant date and the balance in a series of equal monthly installments over the next 36 months of service thereafter.

By: Janice Mahoney by Power of Attorney For: Thomas F. Mendoza 12/13/2004

\*\* 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.