

AMERICAN EXPRESS CO  
Form 4  
February 28, 2012

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
Expires: January 31, 2015  
Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

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 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 \*  
CHENAULT KENNETH I

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3 WORLD FINANCIAL  
CENTER, 200 VESEY ST,  
AMERICAN EXPRESS TOWER

(Street)

NEW YORK, NY 10285

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

AMERICAN EXPRESS CO [AXP]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
(Month/Day/Year)

02/28/2012

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)

Chief Executive Officer

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                    | 02/28/2012                           |  | M                              |   | 555,208 A \$ 29.239   | D  |   |
| Common Stock                    | 02/28/2012                           |  | S                              |   | 430,335 (1) D \$ 53.4267 (4)  | D  |   |
| Common Stock                    | 02/28/2012                           |  | S                              |   | 61,386 (2) D \$ 53.4267 (4)   | D  |   |
| Common Stock                    | 02/28/2012                           |  | S                              |   | 133,267 (3) D \$ 53.4267  | D  |   |

Edgar Filing: AMERICAN EXPRESS CO - Form 4

|              |            |   |               |   | (4)                  |            |   |                           |
|--------------|------------|---|---------------|---|----------------------|------------|---|---------------------------|
| Common Stock | 02/28/2012 | S | 68,733<br>(3) | D | \$<br>53.5289<br>(5) | 811,418    | D |                           |
| Common Stock |            |   |               |   |                      | 85,220     | I | By Wife                   |
| Common Stock |            |   |               |   |                      | 11,058     | I | Wife As Trustee/custodian |
| Common Stock |            |   |               |   |                      | 22,972 (6) | I | By 401(k) Plan            |

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

**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 control number.**

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 Security (Instr. 3 and 4) |              |         |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--------------|---------|
|  |  |                                      |  | Code                           | V (A) (D)   | Date Exercisable   | Expiration Date   | Title        | Amount  |
| Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)       | \$ 29.239  | 02/28/2012                           |  | M                              | 555,208   | 01/27/2004(7)  | 01/26/2013  | Common Stock | 555,208 |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address   | Relationships |           |                         |       |
|--|---------------|-----------|-------------------------|-------|
|  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer                 | Other |
| CHENAULT KENNETH I<br>3 WORLD FINANCIAL CENTER<br>200 VESEY ST, AMERICAN EXPRESS TOWER<br>NEW YORK, NY 10285 | X             |           | Chief Executive Officer |       |

## Signatures

/s/ Michael G. Kuchs,  
attorney-in-fact

02/28/2012

\_\_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).
- (1) The reported disposition represents the sale of shares to cover the cost of exercise and withholding tax obligations arising from the exercise of employee stock options.  
  
The reported disposition represents the sale of 50% of the net shares acquired from the exercise of employee stock options reported above; Mr. Chenault will retain 50% of the net shares from this exercise in accordance with the Company's retention guidelines for executive officers.
- (3) The reported disposition represents the sale of shares acquired from restricted stock vestings and/or stock option exercises in prior years.  
  
The price reported in Column 4 is a weighted average price. These shares were sold in multiple transactions at prices ranging from \$53.09 to \$53.71. The reporting person undertakes to provide to American Express Company, any security holder of American Express Company, or the staff of the Securities and Exchange Commission, upon request, full information regarding the number of shares sold at each separate price within this range.
- (4) The price reported in Column 4 is a weighted average price. These shares were sold in multiple transactions at prices ranging from \$53.27 to \$53.76. The reporting person undertakes to provide to American Express Company, any security holder of American Express Company, or the staff of the Securities and Exchange Commission, upon request, full information regarding the number of shares sold at each separate price within this range.
- (5) Shares held in reporting person's account under the Company's Retirement Savings Plan. This plan uses unit accounting, and the number of shares that a participant is deemed to hold varies with the unit price of the Company pooled stock fund.
- (6) These options became exercisable in four equal annual installments beginning on date shown as "Date Exercisable."
- (7)

### Remarks:

Prior to the transactions reported on this Form 4, Mr. Chenault directly and indirectly beneficially owned a total of 1,069,181 shares of the Company.

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.