

AMERICAN EXPRESS CO  
Form 4  
December 22, 2004

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
Expires: January 31, 2005  
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 \*  
LINEN JONATHAN S

(Last) (First) (Middle)

AMERICAN EXPRESS TOWER, 3  
WORLD FINANCIAL CENTER

(Street)

NEW YORK, NY 10285-5003

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

AMERICAN EXPRESS CO [AXP]

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

12/20/2004

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)  
Member, Global Leadership Team

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 Shares	12/20/2004	12/20/2004	M		150,000 A \$ 22.146	819,600	D
Common Shares	12/20/2004	12/20/2004	M		138,000 A \$ 29.302	957,600	D
Common Shares	12/20/2004	12/20/2004	F <sup>(1)</sup>		90,694 D \$ 56.065	866,906	D
Common Shares	12/20/2004	12/20/2004	F <sup>(1)</sup>		94,949 D \$ 56.065	771,957	D
Common Shares						45,778 <sup>(2)</sup>	I By ISP Trust

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Common Shares 34,500 I By spouse

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

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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 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 Underlying Security (Instr. 3 and 4)	
				Code	V (A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 22.146	12/20/2004	12/20/2004	M	150,000	02/24/1998 <sup>(3)</sup>	02/23/2007	Common Shares
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 29.302	12/20/2004	12/20/2004	M	138,000	02/23/1999 <sup>(3)</sup>	02/22/2008	Common Shares
Employee stock option (right to buy)	\$ 56.065	12/20/2004	12/20/2004	A <sup>(4)</sup>	94,949	06/20/2005	02/22/2008	Common Shares
Employee stock option (right to buy)	\$ 56.065	12/20/2004	12/20/2004	A <sup>(4)</sup>	90,694	06/20/2005	02/23/2007	Common Shares

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
LINEN JONATHAN S AMERICAN EXPRESS TOWER			Member, Global	

3 WORLD FINANCIAL CENTER  
NEW YORK, NY 10285-5003

Leadership  
Team

## Signatures

Jonathan S.  
Linen

12/22/2004

    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 surrender of shares to cover the cost of exercise and tax obligations arising from the exercise of employee stock options.
  - (2) Shares held in reporting person's account under the Company's Incentive Savings Plan as of December 20, 2004. 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.
  - (3) These options vested in three equal annual installments beginning on the date shown as "Date Exercisable."
  - (4) Employee stock options granted pursuant to a reload feature of the 1998 Incentive Compensation 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.