

DOUGHERTY THOMAS M
 Form 4
 December 23, 2002

U.S. SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
 Washington, DC 20549

FORM 4

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

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(f) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

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

 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person*

Dougherty Thomas M.

 (Last) (First) (Middle)

233 Peachtree Street, NE, Suite 1700

 (Street)

Atlanta GA 30303

 (City) (State) (Zip)

 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

AirGate PCS, Inc./"PCSA"

 3. IRS Identification Number of Reporting Person, if an Entity (Voluntary)

 4. Statement for Month/Year

12/17/02

 5. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Year)

 6. Relationship of Reporting Person to Issuer
 (Check all applicable)

Director 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)

Chief Executive Officer

 7. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check applicable line)

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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 (mm/dd/yy)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)		4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	
		Code	V	Amount	Price

* If the Form is filed by more than one Reporting Person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).

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

(Print or Type Response)

(Over)

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Table II -- Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

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1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conver- sion or Exer- cise Price of Deriv- ative Secur- ity	3. Trans- action Date (Month/ Day/ Year)	4. Trans- action Code (Instr. 8) ----- Code V	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) ----- (A) (D)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) ----- Date Expira- tion Date	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) ----- Amount or Number of Shares
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Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$.82	12/17/02	A	100,000	(1) 12/17/12	Class A Comon Stock 100,000
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Explanation of Responses:
Vesting Schedule: (1) Exercisable in four (4) equal annual installments commencing December 17, 2003.

**Signature of Reporting Person Date

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/s/Barbara L. Blackford

12/23/02

Barbara L. Blackford
Power of Attorney for Thomas M. Dougherty

Date

** 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 provided is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

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