

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): **May 7, 2012**

AEROVIRONMENT, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

001-33261

(Commission File Number)

95-2705790

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

181 W. Huntington Drive, Suite 202

Monrovia, CA

(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

91016

(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: **(626) 357-9983**

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (*see* General Instruction A.2. below):

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(B))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4c)

Item 5.02 Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.

On May 8, 2012, AeroVironment, Inc. (the "Company") announced that its Board of Directors has created a new position of Chief Operating Officer and has appointed Thomas Herring to serve as Chief Operating Officer effective as of May 7, 2012.

Mr. Herring, age 52, has served as the Company's Senior Vice President and General Manager, Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) since March, 2010. Prior to being appointed General Manager, Mr. Herring served for the same business as Vice President, Strategy from November 2008 to December 2009 and then as Vice President, Business Development through March 2010. Prior to joining the Company, Mr. Herring attended the Graziadio School of Business and Management at Pepperdine University from September 2007 to April 2009, from which he received an M.B.A., and worked for 27 years with BAE Systems in a succession of positions of increasing responsibility, most recently as Vice President and General Manager of Integrated Solutions, a business unit of BAE Systems, a global defense and security company.

Concurrent with the promotion of Mr. Herring, the Company's Board of Directors also promoted Mr. Roy Minson, age 50, to the position of Senior Vice President and General Manager, UAS. Mr. Minson has served as the Company's Vice President of Business Development and Deputy General Manager, UAS since April 2010. Prior to joining the Company, Mr. Minson was Vice President and Operations Manager for a research and development business within the Tactical Systems and Solutions division of SAIC, a defense contractor, where he was responsible for transitioning products and solutions.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits

- (d) Exhibits.

The following exhibits are filed herewith:

Exhibit Number	Description
99.1	Press release dated May 8, 2012, issued by AeroVironment, Inc.

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

AEROVIRONMENT, INC.

Date: May 11, 2012

By: /s/ Timothy E. Conver
Timothy E. Conver
President and Chief Executive Officer



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PRESS RELEASE

AeroVironment Prepares for Continued Growth, Creates Chief Operating Officer Position and Promotes Tom Herring to Role

- Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President Tim Conver to focus on long-term growth planning, strategy and value creation
- Senior Vice President Tom Herring to focus on execution of annual operating plan and operational excellence
- Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Deputy General Manager Roy Minson promoted to general manager, UAS

MONROVIA, Calif., May 8, 2012 — AeroVironment, Inc. (NASDAQ:AVAV) today announced a realignment of its senior management team to support its growth plans. The company promoted Senior Vice President and UAS General Manager Tom Herring to the newly established position of chief operating officer. Herring will focus on the planning and execution of the company's annual operating plan and on operational excellence.

The company also promoted Roy Minson from vice president and deputy general manager, UAS to senior vice president and general manager of the UAS business segment. AeroVironment's board of directors approved Minson's appointment as an officer of the company, effective May 7, 2012. Minson joined AeroVironment in April 2010 after nearly 30 years of broad experience in defense and commercial markets to lead UAS business development and serve as vice president and deputy general manager for the business segment.

"Tom will focus his attention on the effective execution of our annual operating plan and the efficient expansion of our capabilities to support the growth we anticipate. Both Roy Minson and Wahid Nawabi, general manager of our Efficient Energy Systems business segment, will now report to Tom," said Tim Conver, AeroVironment chairman, chief executive officer and president.

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AeroVironment pioneered and is now a world leader in the small unmanned aircraft systems market. According to the latest United States Department of Defense Unmanned Systems Roadmap, as of July 1, 2011 AeroVironment's RQ-11B Raven, RQ-20A Puma and Wasp small unmanned aircraft systems represented 85 percent of the Department of Defense's entire unmanned aircraft fleet. In addition to United States armed forces, more than a dozen allied military forces employ AeroVironment small UAS. AeroVironment also helped pioneer the market for electric vehicle (EV) charging solutions and is now a leader in industrial EV and passenger EV charging infrastructure solutions, with deployment of more than 7,000 of its level 2 charging systems in 44 states and multiple Canadian provinces and a growing number of its networked fast charging stations available for public use.

"Our team's success in growing existing businesses and moving innovative new products and services to market has been outstanding and other major product and market developments are coming to fruition. Our senior management team is now structured to focus diligently on both operational excellence and the achievement of our long-term growth plans, and we look forward to continuing to create value for all our stakeholders," said Conver.

"When I joined AeroVironment in 2009 I was excited by the growth prospects that lay ahead of the company and by the opportunity to help realize them," said Herring. "Today I am even more enthusiastic about our people, our products and services that are so important to our customers and the multiple, significant growth opportunities we are pursuing. I look forward to working with Tim and the broader AeroVironment team in my new role as we continue to deliver valuable new capabilities to our customers that empower them to be more successful."

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About AeroVironment, Inc.

AeroVironment is a technology solutions provider that designs, develops, produces, operates and supports an advanced portfolio of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) and electric transportation solutions. Agencies of the U.S. Department of Defense and allied military services use the company's electric-powered, hand-launched unmanned aircraft systems extensively to provide situational awareness to tactical operating units through real-time, airborne reconnaissance, surveillance and communication. Multiple government agencies have helped to fund the development and demonstration of Global Observer®, a hybrid-electric, stratospheric UAS designed to provide affordable, persistent reconnaissance and communication over any location on the globe. Switchblade™ is a loitering munition designed to provide a rapid, lethal, pinpoint precision strike capability with minimal collateral damage. AeroVironment's electric transportation solutions include a comprehensive suite of electric vehicle (EV) charging systems, installation and data services for consumers, automakers, utilities and government agencies, power cycling and test systems for EV developers and industrial electric vehicle charging systems for commercial fleets. More information about AeroVironment is available at www.avinc.com.

Safe Harbor Statement

Certain statements in this press release may constitute "forward-looking statements" as that term is defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements are made on the basis of current expectations, forecasts and assumptions that involve risks and uncertainties, including, but not limited to, economic, competitive, governmental and technological factors outside of our control, that may cause our business, strategy or actual results to differ materially from those expressed or implied. Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from the forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, our ability to perform under existing contracts and obtain additional contracts; changes in the regulatory environment; the activities of

competitors; failure of the markets in which we operate to grow; failure to expand into new markets; failure to develop new products or integrate new technology with current products; and general economic and business conditions in the United States and

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elsewhere in the world. For a further list and description of such risks and uncertainties, see the reports we file with the Securities and Exchange Commission. We do not intend, and undertake no obligation, to update any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

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