
**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 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) **December 17, 2004**

ARES CAPITAL CORPORATION

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Charter)

Maryland
(State or Other Jurisdiction
of Incorporation)

000-50697
(Commission
File Number)

33-1089684
(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

780 Third Avenue, 46th Floor, New York, NY
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

10017
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code **(212) 750-7300**

N/A
(Former Name or Former Address, if Changed Since Last Report)

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-4(c))
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Item 7.01. Regulation FD Disclosure

The Registrant issued a press release, filed herewith as Exhibit 99.1 and by this reference incorporated herein, on December 17, 2004 announcing the declaration of a fourth quarter cash dividend of \$0.30 per share. The record date for the dividend is December 27, 2004 and it will be paid on January 26, 2005.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(c) Exhibits:

<u>Exhibit Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
99.1	Press Release, dated as of December 17, 2004.

SIGNATURES

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.

ARES CAPITAL CORPORATION

Date: December 17, 2004

/s/ Daniel F. Nguyen

By: Daniel F. Nguyen

Title: Chief Financial Officer

EXHIBIT INDEX

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**ARES CAPITAL CORPORATION
DECLARES CASH DIVIDEND OF \$0.30 PER SHARE**

New York, NY – December 17, 2004 – Ares Capital Corporation (Nasdaq: ARCC) announced that its Board of Directors has declared a fourth quarter cash dividend of \$0.30 per share, payable on January 26, 2005 to shareholders of record as of December 27, 2004.

About Ares Capital Corporation

Ares Capital Corporation is a newly organized closed-end, non-diversified management investment company that has filed an election to be treated as a business development company under the Investment Company Act of 1940. Its investment objectives are to generate both current income and capital appreciation through debt and equity investments. Ares Capital Corporation intends to invest primarily in first and second lien senior loans and mezzanine debt, which in some cases may include an equity component, and, to a lesser extent, in equity investments in private middle market companies.

Forward-Looking Statements

Statements included herein may constitute “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements are not guarantees of future performance or results and involve a number of risks and uncertainties. Actual results may differ materially from those in the forward-looking statements as a result of a number of factors, including those described from time to time in our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The Company undertakes no duty to update any forward-looking statements made herein.

CONTACT : Merritt S. Hooper of Ares Capital Corporation, 310-201-4200
