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**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20549**

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**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) **February 16 , 2006**

**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, 46<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10017**  
(Address of Principal Executive Offices) (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 following press release was issued by Ares Capital Corporation on February 16, 2006:

**ARES CAPITAL CORPORATION  
SCHEDULES EARNINGS RELEASE  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005**

New York, NY – February 16, 2006 – Ares Capital Corporation (NASDAQ: ARCC) announced today that it will report earnings for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005 on Tuesday, February 28, 2006.

Ares Capital Corporation invites all interested persons to attend its conference call at 4:30 p.m. (Eastern Time) on Tuesday, February 28, 2006 to discuss its fiscal year end financial results. You can access the conference call by dialing (800) 732-9370 approximately 5-10 minutes prior to the call. International callers should dial (212) 346-6535. All callers should reference “Ares Capital Corporation.” For the convenience of our stockholders, an archived replay of the call will be available through March 10, 2006 by calling (800) 633-8625. International callers please dial (402) 977-9141. For all replays, please reference pin # 21284062.

**About Ares Capital Corporation**

Ares Capital Corporation is a closed-end, non-diversified management investment company that is regulated 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 invests 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

**Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits .**

(c) Exhibits:

<u>Exhibit Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
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Not Applicable

## 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: February 16, 2006

By: /s/ Daniel F. Nguyen

Name: Daniel F. Nguyen

Title: Chief Financial Officer