

THORATEC CORP  
Form 4  
January 16, 2007

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

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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 \*  
NELSON JEFFREY

(Last) (First) (Middle)

6035 STONERIDGE DRIVE

(Street)

PLEASANTON, CA 94588

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
THORATEC CORP [THOR]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
(Month/Day/Year)  
01/12/2007

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)  
Division President

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 Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount (A) or (D) Price		
Common Stock	01/12/2007 <sup>(1)</sup>		M		3,834 A \$ 5.79	12,169	D
Common Stock	01/12/2007 <sup>(1)</sup>		M		9,542 A \$ 5.79	21,711	D
Common Stock	01/12/2007 <sup>(1)</sup>		S		8,376 D \$ 18.2	13,335	D
Common Stock	01/12/2007 <sup>(1)</sup>		S		3,800 D \$ 18.21	9,535	D
Common Stock	01/12/2007 <sup>(1)</sup>		S		800 D \$ 18.22	8,735	D



## 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).

- Option exercised and shares of Common Stock sold pursuant to a Sales Plan established by the Reporting Person on December 15, 2006,
- (1) which Sales Plan is intended to comply with the requirements of Rule 10b5-1(c)(1) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.
  - (2) Shares vest in four equal installments over four years commencing one year after the grant date.
  - (3) Option was granted pursuant to the Company's equity incentive plan with no payment received for the option.
  - (4) Shares vest 100% 6 months after the grant date.

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.