



**TACTICAL SUPPLY WING AVIATOR OF THE YEAR 2022**



Fulfilling the role of MT Controller within the Mechanical Transport Flight Tactical Supply Wing, SAC Mason Preston has continually excelled beyond the expectations of his rank and assigned responsibilities.

As the MT Controller, a post normally reserved for the most experienced JNCO; he was pivotal in the management of a 152 strong fleet and central to delivering MT output. Preston became the key intermediary between Ops, MT and Eng; balancing support to a rapidly increasing post-Covid exercise programme with a largely reduced fleet still suffering the delayed effects of C19 restrictions. Notable challenges throughout this time included taking on a complex and incoherent external ADR process, a full time role previously undertaken at SNCO level; planning and delivery of several overseas vehicle exchanges; and the first line tasking of a 40 strong dispersed driver pool. Aside this incredibly busy role, Preston demonstrated exceptional capacity in supporting wider TSW activity. Highly effective when mentoring fellow Aviators in key fleet management roles and dedicated a significant amount of his own time to supporting both the TSW Motorhome and welfare facility. Demonstrating analytical thinking and staff work way above what is expected, Preston proactively arranged for a TG6 open day to aid awareness of, and subsequent recruitment into, TSW. This involved broad planning across all Wing functions to organise staff, equipment, refreshments, and briefs. This resulted in a surge of interest in future volunteers from across the trade from LAC to Flt Lt. Deemed number 1 of 112 SACs on TSW, Preston's professionalism, experience and dependability have been heavily relied upon to ensure TSW's output in providing and sustaining aviation refuelling to Joint Helicopter Command (JHC) worldwide. Going above and beyond the expectations of his primary role, Preston has been central in supporting the Wing, its personnel, and their families on the unit. Preston is a credit to TSW and the wider RAF and worthy of the title "TSW Aviator of the Year."