

ates are very important to the RCMP, as they are out there providing our police services, while the staff is just part of the support process to the Force. I suggest that the graduating members be the main persons in the photographs and the staff to the side and/or back.

As it is, the pictures are a reinforcement of the hierarchical command-and-control that I believe we have been trying to change in the past few years.

Peter Macnaughton
Informatics Directorate, Ottawa

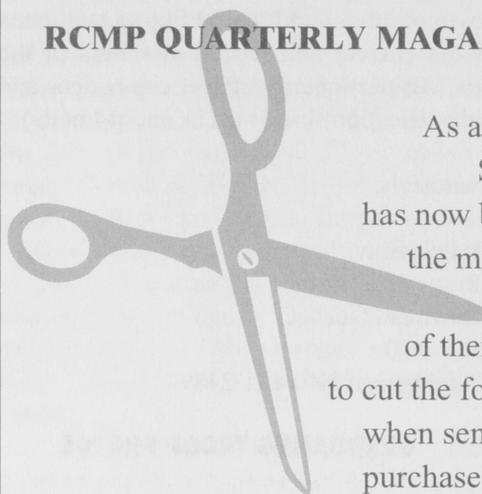
In asking the C/S/M's office, a former "Depot" Associate Editor and many others "in the business" to come up with an answer, we were hoping to get something more than "That's the way we have always done it. It's an RCMP tradition!" However, our current "Depot" Associate Editor gave us more than a one-paragraph answer. It was felt that the question warranted a complete explanation, as follows. — Editor.

Dear Editor,

I must say at the outset that I, and definitively all the members of the staff at "Depot," do not consider themselves as just support staff. Not so very long ago, we were also delivering that police service. In order for the graduates to do their job to the best of their ability, and to be ready to do the job, we, the staff, have to put in a lot of time, effort and rely on past experiences to give the graduates all the baggage necessary to accomplish their task in the most professional and competent manner, in keeping with the "tradition" of high degree of service and excellence to the Canadian public.

Now, to answer your enquiry — this is only my opinion, and in no way the official position of either the Force or "Depot" management. I truly believe that the graduates adorning their Red Serge for one of their first official functions are indeed the focal point of the picture. The staff members present in the picture are usually the Commanding Officer or representative, as well as another officer directly involved with the

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