

What The Hell Happened?

No clue who will end up reading this, but here's the very basic version of events. /u/ImWheat (heretofore referred to simply as "Wheat") created an AutoModerator sticky on Sunday, July 23rd, 2023 for each new thread that was functionally an advertisement for his personal community. This community, named Project Awesome (PA), does not play Squad in any organized manner, had functionally left the overall community about "two years" prior to this particular drama, and no longer hosts a server for the game.

A quick note: PA basically immediately distanced themselves from Wheat's actions. They are an unfortunate, and insofar as anyone knows innocent, third party to Wheat's intransigence. One of their admins had a discussion on Discord with someone else about the matter, which you can read [here](#).

The origin of the drama was that the well known Squad content creator MoiDawg made a post about the situation, stating that it was both against the subreddit's own rules and that the advertised community had nothing to do with Squad.

This, on its own, is a bit of an overstep for a moderator but alone it was not a big deal. He'd done it before and removed the message fairly quickly, thinking within an hour. This time, however, Wheat began banning anyone who decided to call him out. I was personally banned at the same time as MoiDawg and many others.

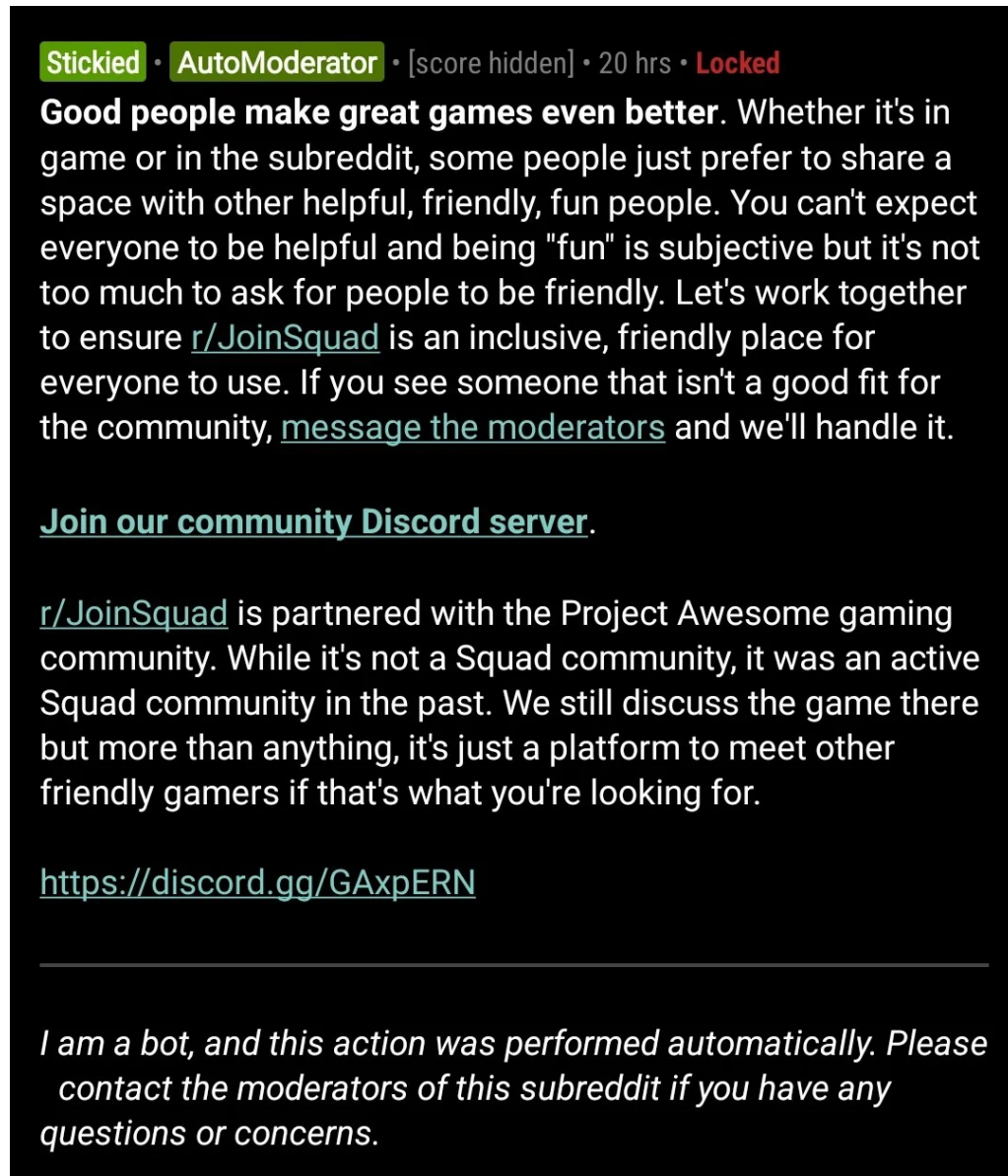
When this occurred, many people began to post on /r/playsquad, a different subreddit ran someone who is unaffiliated with Wheat or PA, and from there the fire rose.

Unfortunately, I didn't get the idea to keep this properly documented until Tuesday, so some comments and threads are not possible for me to go back and refer to. I also intentionally avoided commenting in a number of these threads on purpose, as I was unbanned at one point by a different mod (who was removed, by the by) and I didn't want to give Wheat the satisfaction of banning me again. He has personally deleted many comments. Even more unfortunately, in May 2023, reddit removed API access to the variety of websites that allowed you to recover deleted comments.

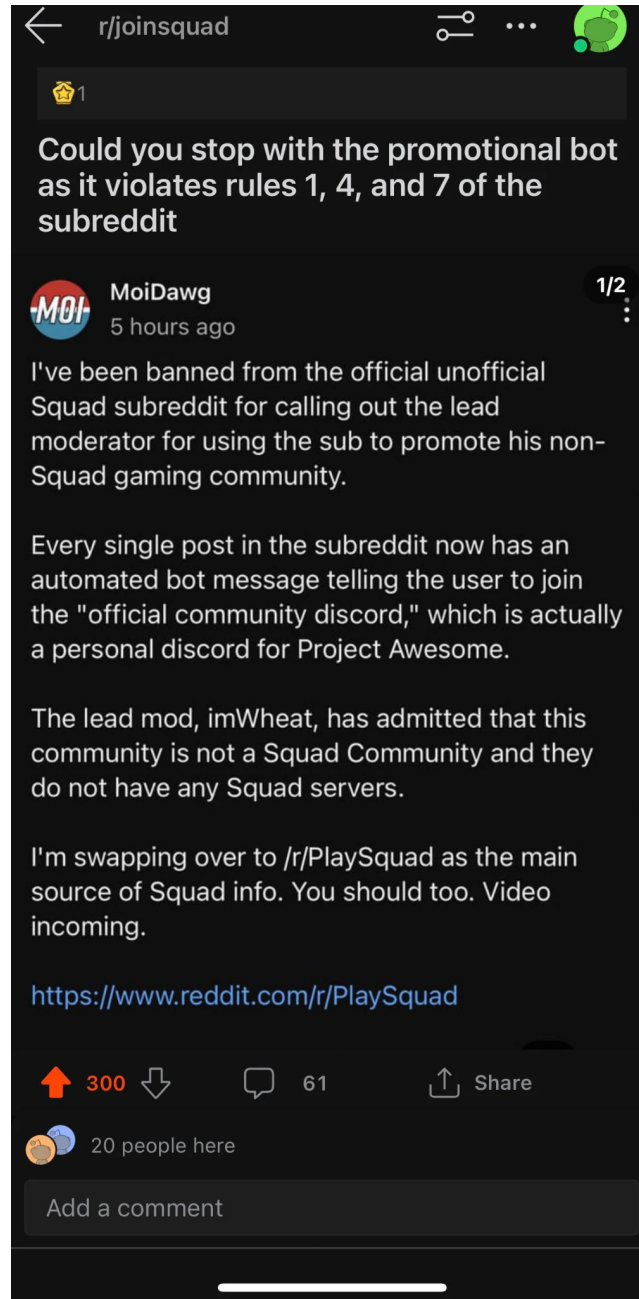
The Thread.

This was the original thread posted that began this entire series of hootenanery. The image is of the automoderator sticky previously mentioned.

https://www.reddit.com/r/joinsquad/comments/157f6av/meta_a_bot_posting_a_stickied_message_to_join/



Below this is another image of MoiDawg calling Wheat out again.



It should be noted that it seems like absolutely everyone in that original thread was banned from the subreddit. Many were unbanned either by another mod or Wheat later on, though the act of doing it in the first place was kind of enough to piss everyone off.

Below is another image emblematic of both the problem and almost assuredly what Wheat was hoping for: to confuse the members of the subreddit to join his personal community under the guise that it had *anything* to do with /r/joinsquad, Squad, or OWI.



 **r/joinsquad** · Posted by u/The_Twick 5 minutes ago

What is going on on this sub? Is it a personal space for the mods to promote their own Discord? I thought this was about Squad.....



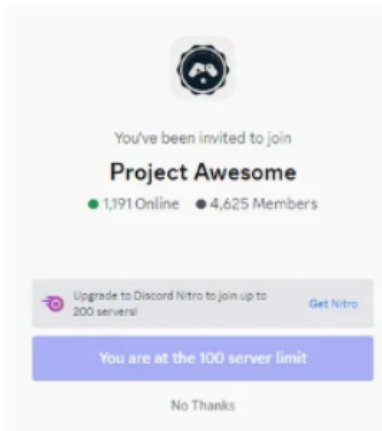
Sorry, this post has been removed by the moderators of r/joinsquad.

Moderators remove posts from feeds for a variety of reasons, including keeping communities safe, civil, and true to their purpose.

4. Do not advertise outside projects

Do not use this subreddit to advertise outside projects without prior moderation approval. This includes posting chat rooms, voice chat, websites, charities, Twitch, YouTube Channels, or asking for subscribers/followers. Use [r/SquadUp](#) to promote your own personal events.

Squad is a teamwork oriented tactical shooter being made by the Canadian-based Offworld Industries. Check in here for the latest news and community content. Join the Discord below for another place to connect with other friendly gamers. (Join our community Discord) (<https://discord.gg/GAxpERN>)



The image shows a Discord server invite card for 'Project Awesome'. At the top is the server's icon, a black circle with a white 'PA' inside. Below the icon, it says 'You've been invited to join Project Awesome'. Underneath, it shows '1,191 Online' and '4,625 Members'. There is a button that says 'Upgrade to Discord Nitro to join up to 200 servers!' with a 'Get Nitro' link. Below that, a purple banner says 'You are at the 100 server limit'. At the bottom, there is a 'No Thanks' button.

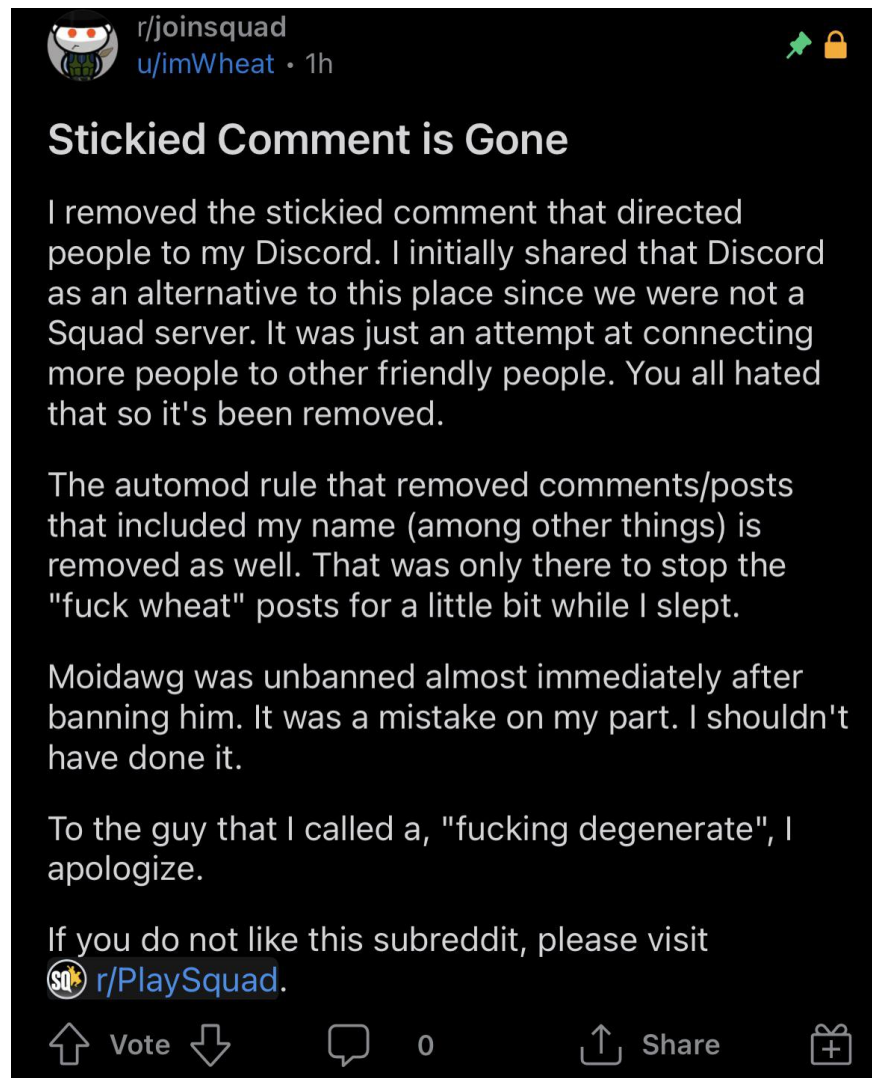


Attempted Damage Control.

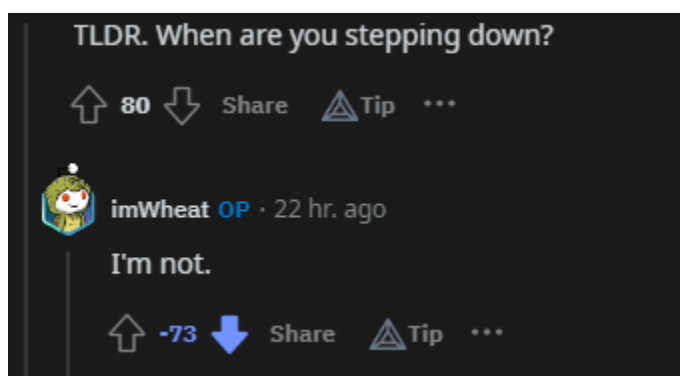
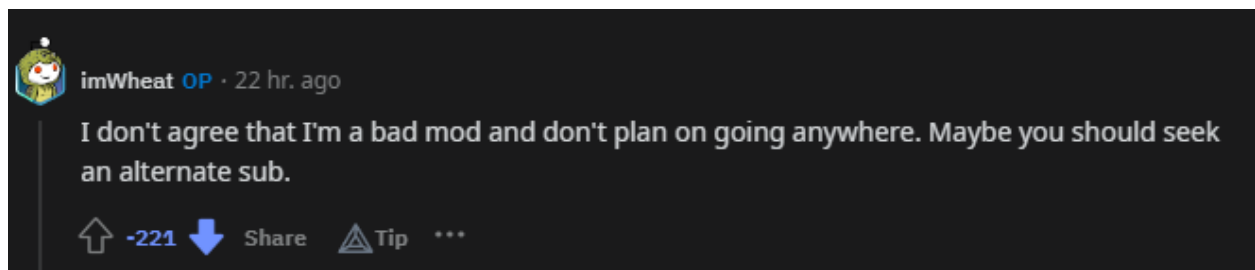
When the word began to get out, people started to flood /r/joinsquad with anti-Wheat threads and comments called for him to step down as moderator. Wheat's first attempt to do damage control was, naturally, removing the AutoModerator sticky from new threads.

Naturally, this probably would have been enough if Wheat didn't spend his time banning people before putting this thread up. I have put this together days after events unfolded, so I cannot recall exactly how long this took.

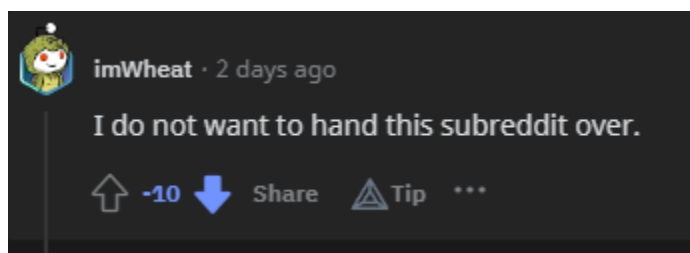
After he removed that sticky, people continued to post, either shitposts or legitimate requests for Wheat to step down, at which point Wheat absolutely refused to listen.



The following are some of the comments that Wheat made in response to being asked to step down:

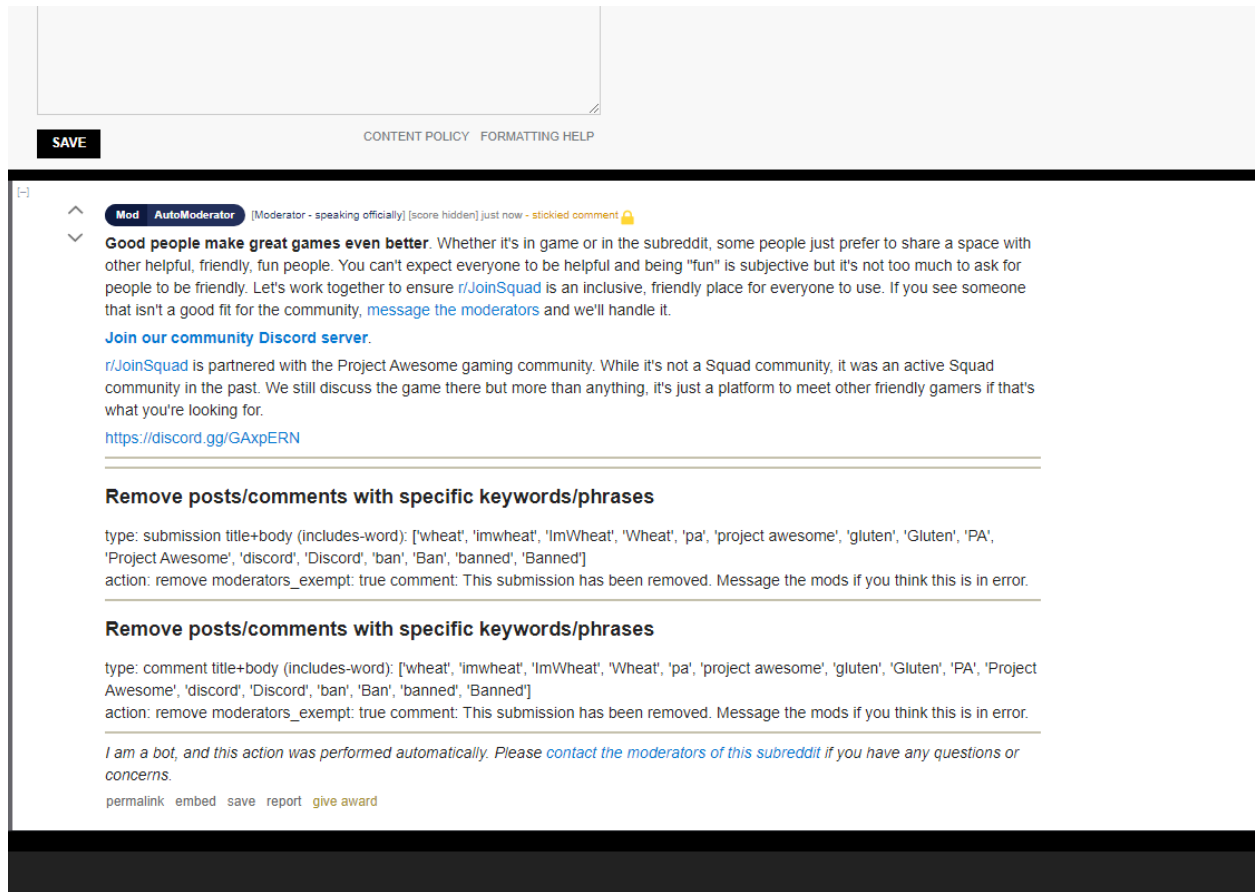


Note: the image below is from someone requesting /r/squad be wrested from him, since no posts have been there for 5 years and all it does is redirect from /r/squad to /r/joinsquad.



There were many, many more comments in the same vein of people asking him to step down and him refusing. Again, unfortunately, many of these comments he deleted so it only shows "comment removed by user".

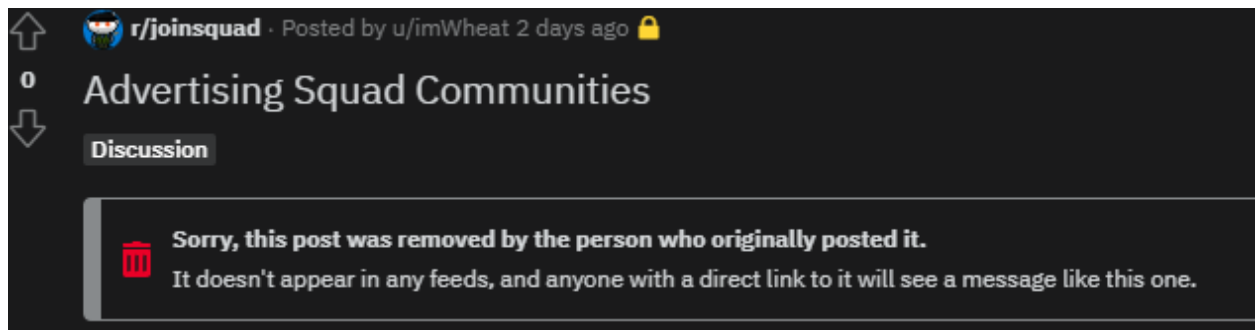
Now, I'm not sure where in the timeline this occurred because it all kind of jumbled together in a span of about 2-3 hours, but during this time frame, Wheat was also so graciously kind to show *the entire website* his AutoMod prompts, which can be seen below.



This image is a bit small, but zooming in should help.

As you can see, any mention of him, his community, the concept of gluten, and the entire company of Discord have the comments or threads subject to immediate removal.

Around this same time, he posted this thread, which has none of his comments nor the original text.



Some snippets of comments in the thread, which are going to be copy-pasted to remove their usernames:

You can step down as a moderator.

Edit: r/playsquad

+172.

—

Ah yes, the official non-official non-squad discord for the squad focused reddit.

Makes perfect sense. No notes

+79

—

Rules be like: Content must be directly related to Squad.

https://www.reddit.com/r/joinsquad/comments/14czshf/rjoinsquad_is_back_version_two/

imWheat: All posts on this subreddit need to be about the game, Squad.

Also imWheat: promotes a non Squad discord server in every post.

+55

—

Dude, nobody gives a shit about your fucking side discord.

We're here for squad. Stop advertising your garbage using automod.

You wanna advertise your shit, make a post so we can all down vote it and show you how much NOONE wants your BS self advertisement here

—

I admit, I put the last one in there because I found it very funny while also being quite poignant.

Enter: /r/playsquad.

During this period of time, Wheat and many other users began to promote another subreddit named /r/playsquad. When people began to move over to that subreddit, the vast majority of posts in the first couple of hours were purely about the situation. Many were there simply to make fun of Wheat, many more were taking the time to document particular events that occurred, which has been a huge help putting this together.

Sunday was more or less allowed to be free for all, but come Monday the only moderator on the sub asked people to relax. Though a few posts continued, more and more posts simply about the game began to crop up.

For a large number of us, /r/playsquad is now the subreddit we'll visit. I'll have a whole personal diatribe against Wheat at the end of this, but suffice it to say that he is infamous for personally sabotaging communities. Both his own and others. The guy is just a gaming community terrorist.

One of those threads I am going to post here, mainly because it did a great job of collecting everything that happened in roughly the first 24 hours.

https://www.reddit.com/r/PlaySquad/comments/158911k/what_happened_at_the_other_subreddit_a_brief/

Note that the author of that post was banned from /r/joinsquad.

When this subreddit began to gain traction, another thread was posted on /r/joinsquad that is, surprisingly, still up. I will post the text directly and put the link beneath it, so that way the content is still there before Wheat removes the post at some point in the future.

[We're almost there](#)

The automod sticky under all the posts is gone, which is a good step. But the subreddit description still has the link. The way it is currently written is misleading and makes it appear the discord link is for the official squad discord or to the discord of the joinsquad subreddit itself. Just because the sticky is gone, doesn't mean you've solved the problem.

Here is a reasonable solution: sticky a post at the top of the subreddit specifically for advertisement and promotion. In this thread and this thread only, can users post advertisements and promotions of their in-game servers or community discords. Then you can sticky the project awesome discord at the top of that post. Then change rule 7 to state that this discussion thread is the only place in which advertisement and promotion are allowed and all individual posts will still be removed the same as they have in the past. This will make it so no subreddit rules are being broken by you, and you can still advertise your discord without this subreddit going to hell. As well as giving a place for squad players to find servers and discords still active in the game.

Other Subreddit Stuff.

These are just going to be links because I don't really think they'll get removed since Wheat has zero control over these threads.

A few other threads were made elsewhere, starting with /r/redditrequest to remove Wheat as the mod of /r/squad. He noted in the comments that he was unwilling to "give up" this subreddit. First of all, no shit, you're the main character. Obviously. Secondly, what would he be giving up? It hadn't been used in 5 years.

https://www.reddit.com/r/redditrequest/comments/15811yy/requesting_rsquad_has_one_moderator_whos_using_it/

The /r/SubredditDrama post

https://www.reddit.com/r/SubredditDrama/comments/158he7r/joinsquad_headmod_changes_audomod_to_include_his/

Additionally, here is another post to SRD 7 years ago due to Wheat pulling literally this exact same move.

https://www.reddit.com/r/SubredditDrama/comments/50ka9d/a_group_called_project_awesome_annexes_cold_war/

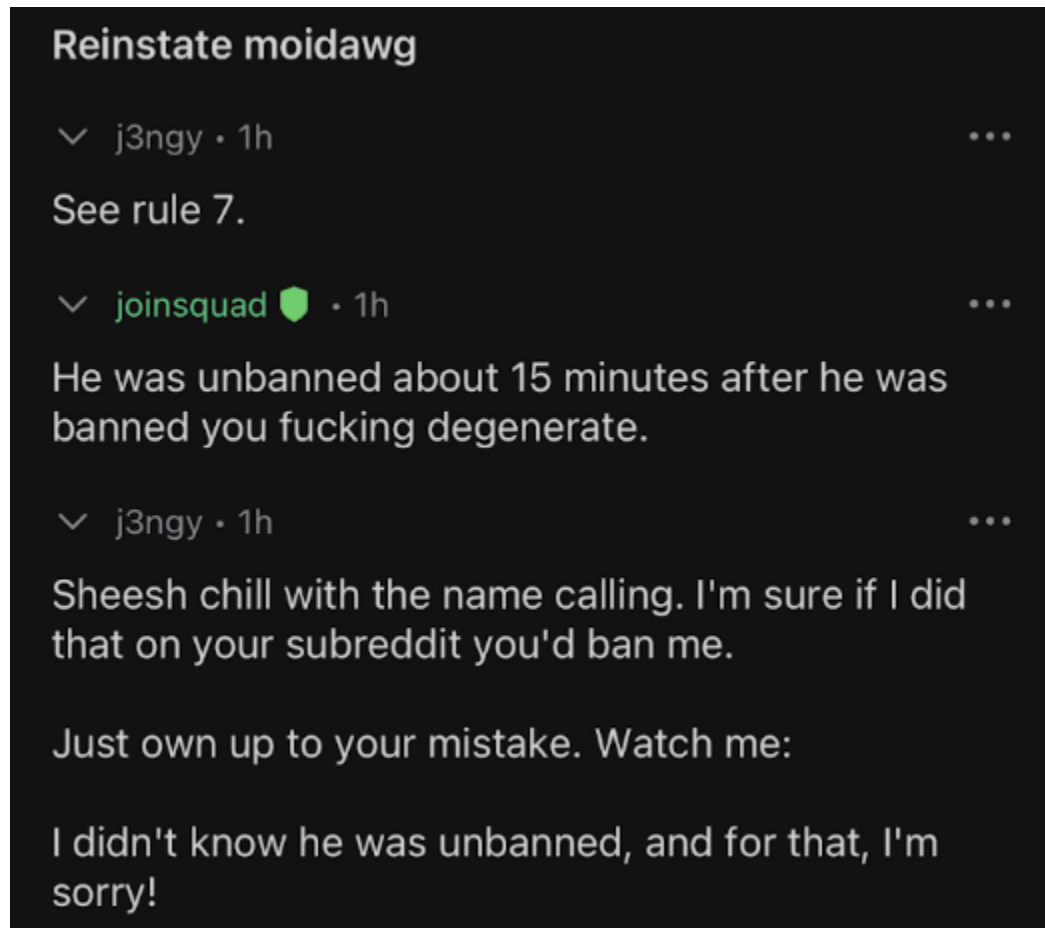
This is particularly important information because it shows a trend. Wheat just...does this. There are at least 3 breakaway Arma 3 groups that I know of that left PA because Wheat is such a tyrant with his own communities. Then, of course, with the Wargame subreddit, I kind of count that as another breakaway community, though it wasn't PA necessarily so much as he attempted a terrible hostile takeover of the Wargame sub.

I do not have any information relating to the other communities, though we have spoken with them in the past and noted that the series of events were basically the same every time. Wheat oversteps, people push back, he starts banning people, his entire fucking community leaves. Minimum it's happened four times at this point. I have not personally gone into the PA Discord, I'd be banned immediately, but from what I've been told, the community is essentially on life support.

This does not shock me. Wheat is a moron.

Wheat's Other Conduct.

A message between Wheat & a banned user:



During the entire fiasco, which was entirely of his own doing, this is the type of thing people would expect to get back from him.

I don't want to mince words here. Wheat is a childish, brash, awful person. He surrounds himself with sycophants that won't lift a finger when he does things to other people. Yea, sure, reddit stuff is on the lower end of "things I should give a shit about", the issue is he does this repeatedly. Wheat hurts people. That's what he does.

There were many more comments from people asking him to step down where he would say no, call them names, and move on to the next comment of someone asking him to step down and then he'd call them names. Again, unfortunately, he deleted most of these comments.

The Big Thread.

I'm not going to lie to you, this one is a doozy. It's a wall of text. This gives you the events from his perspective, twisted and all. This is another thing that Wheat does, he acts like he is the victim. That he never did or does anything wrong.

Anyway, below is the link of the (now deleted) thread and below that is my personal response to him, which was the top comment in the thread prior to it being deleted.

https://www.reddit.com/r/joinsquad/comments/158slby/an_explanation_of_drama_and_manually_approving/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=ios_app&utm_name=ioscss&utm_content=2&utm_term=1

What's Happening?

After Reddit made their API changes and started ousting subreddit moderators, I thought it made sense to connect an alternative to Reddit in case something happened to this place. Initially I was just going to create a new Discord and post a stickied comment to every post displaying it. However, I don't want to moderate a second Discord and figured there'd be no real harm in just using one I'm already active in. So, I just used an already existing Discord server for my community, Project Awesome.

For those that frequent this place often, you might notice there isn't a lot of off topic conversation. That's because I remove it. If the person making the post is unruly, I ban them. There's always a chance to appeal if they want but when they message us via modmail and tell us to go fuck ourselves or even worse send us stuff [like this](#) they stay banned. I don't want to deal with them. I don't want you to have to deal with them. There's either a lot of fucked up people here or a few people just spend all day making alts. Either way, I remove it quickly. That's what happened when I banned Moidawg. There was a lot of shit being posted and I was quickly removing it. Moidawgs post just looked like another post from the others that were spamming things. I saw that it was a mistake and unbanned him almost immediately. However, it was too late. Moidawg let people know what happened on Twitter and even made a video about it. From my understanding, he's still not let anyone know he's unbanned. I'm sure he has a good reason for that but if it matters, he was [unbanned a long time ago](#).

Let me clear up a few other things.

I do not think this subreddit is mine. I did say something to that effect but that's not what I meant. I do the majority of the work. I keep the community focused on the game (most of the time). I wrote the rules that most of you seem to agree with. I deal with the bs so you don't have to. I actually like Squad and love communities like this. Some of my best times were running Squad and PR servers. When I said it was "mine", I just meant I was the one doing the work. I'm

the top mod. I have the final say in things. That doesn't mean I don't listen. Even when "I wrote the rules", I did so with communities input. This place is ours.

What is Project Awesome and Why do I Have an Issue with OWI?

Project Awesome (PA) is an attempt at bringing good people together, giving them fun things to do and helping them connect. PA was once a Project Reality community. It's currently an ARMA community and at one time we were a Squad community too. We like a lot of the same games this place does. My focus there has been to build something inclusive and helpful, fun and friendly. That's something the Squad community needs more of. There was a reason why our Squad servers were so popular. We had a good thing going. OWI is the main reason why we shut our servers down. They ignored us when other licensed communities tried to empty our servers. At one point, Jenny asked a community leader for another group that was harassing us to "investigate themselves". Every time there was a free weekend, members of these other communities joined our servers with the intention of making it so horrible that others would leave. This led to us having a hard time seeding. People would do the work and then we'd get swamped with trolls and have to seed all over again. OWI literally ignored us. Krispy basically taunted me when I tried to talk to him about issues we were having. They didn't care. As far as I know, they wanted us gone.

OWI wasn't just shit to PA when we needed them. They were no better when dealing with me directly. In 2016, a similar thing to this happened. At that time, there were communities with licensed servers trying to find my address. They eventually did. I told OWI about it and eventually a screenshot was leaked of them saying that I was basically making it all up. This gave those people the greenlight to increase their harassment because they knew there wouldn't be any backlash. These are the same people that sit back and did nothing when people on their payroll were actively talking about hanging minorities from trees. (I can't know for sure what they were thinking.) I do not think these are good people so yeah, I don't have a lot of respect for them.

[There was a series of links here, linking to other communities. I have removed them as they were related to justification of bans and conduct of other people, wholly irrelevant to the situation. That's his other move. Pointing things that other people do.]

A big reason why I'm here is because I know this community would be worse if [r/JoinSquad](#) got anywhere close to their hands. Whether some of you believe it or not, I care about the people in this community and support you over them any day.

What's Next?

I have no fucking clue. I'm not leaving the subreddit. I still think there's a place for PA somewhere here but I also think there's ways for other communities to advertise as well. I'm going to talk to those here who are interested and see if we can make something work. I won't do one without the other.

I had someone recently ask about letting the community decide unbans and I thought that would be interesting. Maybe once a month I could post screenshots of posts that lead to bans and the community could vote to unban them? It might give you an idea of what we deal with if nothing else.

Lastly, if you post or make a comment here and it's not visible immediately, it's because I've turned on manual approving. We might do that for a little while just to keep you from having to see all the BS.

Edit:

A user here mentioned that what I said about OWI could be seen as slander. That user quickly deleted their message. Let me make it absolutely clear, when Nordic was caught doing the racist stuff I was talking about (the user reminded me of his name), I shared a private channel on the official Squad Discord with some on the OWI team. I also spoke with a few of them individually. I don't remember the names of the people who were there (I know one doesn't work with them anymore) nor do I know what their thoughts were. Did they ignore it on purpose? I don't know. Did they even understand what I was talking about when I said it? I don't know. All I know is that I had seen what Nordic was doing. Other users saw it and messaged the mods here about it. I specifically brought it up to people in either that group channel, through DMs or maybe even both. I was bothered by it and felt something should be done. Nothing was done until months later [a video was posted on the subreddit](#) and I let it stay. After it stayed on the subreddit for a day or two, then changes were made. One of the users in the post I just linked said, ['I know it's a shitty time for an "I told you so" but this subreddit has been complaining about Nordic and co for years. Glad something is finally being addressed.'](#) This was a known issue and a lot of us tried to tell them that having Nordic and Mumblerines as a huge part of the game (I believe Mumblerines had logos in the shooting range?) was a bad idea. Nothing happened until the video was released and seen by everyone here. The devs never really talked to me again after that.

Edit: I feel I've responded to most things. It's getting repetitive at this point. The other mods here might be manually approving posts for the time being. If not, I'll get some more help added soon. We'll look at removing this manual approval process tomorrow.

My own personal comment:

You're missing the point, Wheat.

You did an advertisement for PA, which clearly broke your own rules, and then reacted in possibly the worst manner imaginable, are walking back a bunch of statements now because people are upset, not because you actually care. You can delete everything as much as you like, but enough of it has been documented that like 8,000 people on this sub have a damn kompromat of you.

The point is that people don't want you as the mod here. It doesn't matter what you've supposedly done in the past, you're currently holding a subreddit hostage for a game you don't play, that is developed and published by a company you don't like, and your community that you advertised (again, against your own rules) is not doing anything for. There's literally nothing here for you other than holding a modicum of power over people who have no recourse to do anything about it. It is, quite frankly, just hilariously terminally online.

It does not matter what you've done, what you will do, what you've said, what you haven't said. The people of this sub do not want you fucking moderating it because you can't keep yourself in check. I know you'll say it doesn't matter because you won't give the sub up, we know. That is why people are going to a different one. To get away from you. Specifically. If you had an ounce of introspection you'd just let go. You could give this sub up and your life wouldn't change in any meaningful manner while everyone else who does visit this sub would have a vastly improved experience. You won't though.

You have demonstrable and documented conflicts of interest, you're overtly hostile to a community that likely didn't know you existed beyond a name in the sidebar until you decided to not only start a fire but then fan the flames of it, and you somehow stand here resolutely like you were the one who was wronged. I cannot believe it. It's just so frustratingly out of touch.

We'll see if this comment is approved or whatever, but that's my \$0.02.

EDIT: Things are only getting repetitive because you won't listen. The people have told you what they want, and that's you to leave. You won't do it because you're a fucking cretin.

EDIT 2: I've gone through your edits and dude, no one cares what you think of OWI or what they are. We know their community team and some developers were terrible people. They can be the bad guys too, just like you are and make no mistake, you ARE the bad guy in this scenario. This doesn't excuse your actions even in the slightest. In fact, it makes your staunch position make even less sense. If you don't like them, they don't like you, and we don't like you, and you don't like the game this sub is for, then what the hell are you doing here? Your stance makes less and less sense with every word you post.

I mean, we all know why I guess, you don't want to give up your little reddit fief where you can lord your super hard job of reddit moderator over people. Pathetic.

Why Should You Give A Shit?

So why should you care about one random reddit mod letting his moderatorship get to his head?

Well, I guess that is up to you. I have a personal beef with this man for a variety of reasons. The lone act of being too far up his own ass moderator isn't the only thing here. It is part of a cycle of repeated abuse towards those he deems "lesser".

If I didn't know Wheat before, I'd think he was just another clown with a green button on reddit. The issue is that I do know Wheat. I know he's an abuser and reddit is his outlet.

Throughout this entire fiasco, Wheat mentioned multiple times that he doesn't play the game, that PA doesn't play the game, that they don't do any organized activity for the game, and that he and OWI are at personal odds with each other. Which begs the question I asked...why the hell is he still there? He wants nothing to do with anyone around yet wants to hold this little sliver of power he holds over people?

Now the bigger reason that I put this all together is so if I ever decide to make this public, people know what kind of man Wheat is. I want to say in 2018 or 2019, the group I'm in heard that Wheat had been swatted. It's not that strange for him to make stuff up like that, but regardless, some members of the community I belong to decided to offer up their condolences and just general support for him. Regardless of who someone is, getting swatted isn't really cool. People die that way. Families are ruined that way. It's not cool.

He immediately turned it around and suggested those who reached out with kind words upon hearing about it were those who had actually undertaken the action in the first place and threatened legal action. Now, I know that Wheat is actually a gigantic mental midget and he would never do this, but if he had? He would have affected people's actual lives based on approximately zero evidence. I know people who he has tried to dox in the past, thankfully he fucking sucks at it and couldn't get beyond a reddit account.

So, to me, this isn't actually just because he was an asshole on reddit. I can deal with assholes on reddit. No, Wheat is an actual **predator**. Wheat is an actually bad person who does things to harm people and tries to wrap it in a veneer of his "safe and accepting" community. There is an entire dossier on my community's break up with him as well. If you read through it, which I will not make public as it was never intended as such, you would see a beat by beat progenitor of this same situation.

So this is cyclical. His predation is cyclical. His abuse is cyclical. Wheat is a terrible person, and everyone should know who and what he is: a monster.