S5240 SMALL SOLDIERS (USA, 1998)

**Credits:** director, Joe Dante; writers, Gavin Scott, Adam Rifkin, Ted Elliott, Terry Rossio.

**Cast:** Kirsten Dunst, Gregory Smith, Jay Mohr, Phil Hartman.

**Summary:** Science fiction/fantasy set in contemporary Ohio. A toy designer, working for a conglomerate which also does military work, uses “intelligent” military computer chips (originally intended to be used in a canceled missile project) to create two lines of action figures. These are: the aggressive Commando Elite, led by Major Chip Hazzard (voice of Tommy Lee Jones); and the Gorgonites, a group of pacifistic space aliens led by the Archer (Frank Langella). These “toys” escape from their boxes and begin the battle they were programmed for, endangering any humans who get in the way. The Commandos are programmed to destroy the Gorgonites and pursue this mission with relentless and resourceful militaristic fervor. Teenager Alan Abernathy (Smith), son of a toy store owner, is drawn into the battle to rescue the Gorgonites when his girlfriend and her family are taken hostage by the Commandos. At one point Major Hazard paraphrases the “I love the smell of napalm in the morning” line from *Apocalypse now.*


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