



USAMRDC Good News Story



U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command

In Global First, USAMRDC Scientists Prove Malarial Mosquitos 'Go with the Flow'

- Scientists with the U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command's (USAMRDC) Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR) published new findings this month proving, for the first time ever, that malarial mosquitos migrate long distances on high-level current winds; an act which may potentially spread or re-introduce the disease to their destinations.
- The groundbreaking findings, developed in-part by Walter Reed Biosystematics Unit (WRBU) scientists Yvonne-Marie Linton and Lourdes Chamorro, were published in the October 17, 2019 edition of *Nature* magazine (seen at right).
- The nearly two-year study, based out of Mali, in Africa, argues that potentially-infected mosquitos travel upwards of tens of thousands of kilometers per night, an act which may be responsible for the introduction (or reintroduction) of malaria to the region – as is now thought to be the case during previous outbreaks in Israel and Egypt.
- The findings may have a significant impact on control and elimination efforts for vector-borne diseases, as mosquito control efforts and vector hazard models must now take long-distance migration into account.



OUTCOME: The U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command, with its global partners are committed to developing novel interventions to prevent the transmission of malaria – including mosquito repellents, chemoprophylaxis, biologics, and more – to eliminate this threat to Service Members deployed around the world.