



USAMRDC Good News Story



U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command

USAMRDC Shines with Top Billing in Major Medical Journal

- USAMRDC efforts in the testing of a new smallpox vaccine were highlighted in an article published in *The New England Journal of Medicine* (NEJM) on Thursday, November 14.
- The article (“Phase III Efficacy Trial for Modified Vaccinia Ankara as a Smallpox Vaccine”) was co-authored by Phillip R Pittman, MD, MPH, of the USAMRDC’s United States Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID).
- USAMRIID played a key role in testing the new vaccine –marketed under the trade name JYNNEOS– which was eventually approved on September 24 by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).
- The drug was developed by biotechnology company Bavarian Nordic, and is designed to prevent both smallpox and monkeypox disease.
- As part of the testing effort, USAMRIID teamed with the U.S. Defense Health Agency (DHA) to lead a pivotal Phase 3 clinical trial which ultimately enrolled 440 Service Members at 65th MED BDE facilities in South Korea.
- Smallpox was officially eradicated in 1980, but since most populations are no longer immunized, an intentional release of the smallpox virus would have devastating global consequences.



From top: *The New England Journal of Medicine* masthead (courtesy NEJM); Copy of the USAMRIID article (courtesy NEJM); Image of JYNNEOS packaging (courtesy Bavarian Nordic); official USAMRIID logo.

OUTCOME: The USAMRDC’s cutting-edge vaccine research will have a direct impact on both force health protection and readiness in the future operational environment, allowing U.S. Service Members to successfully combat emerging threats.