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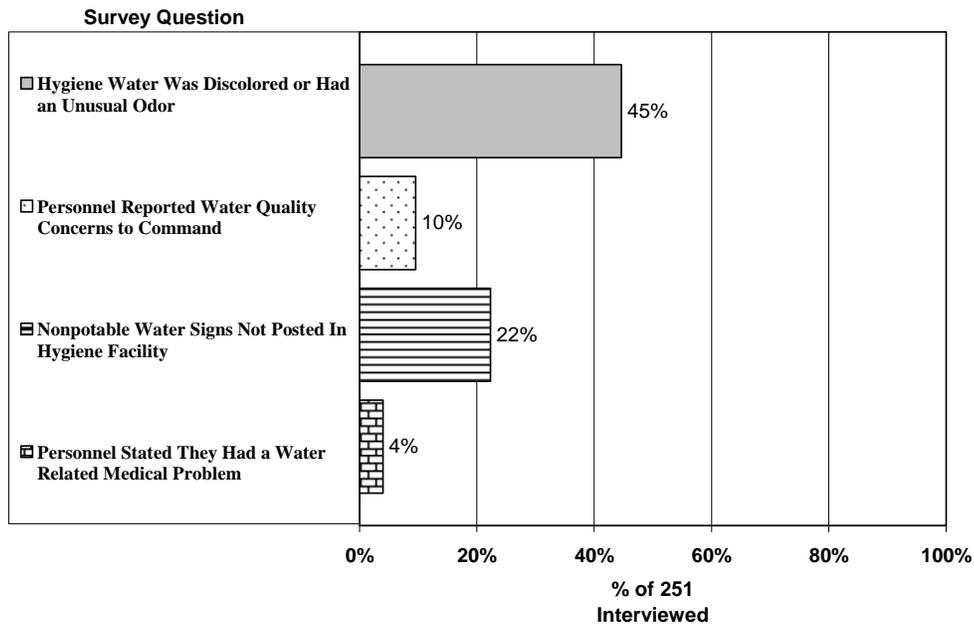
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- 10 percent (24 of 251) said they reported their water quality concerns to command authorities and 46 percent (11 of 24) said they received a command response to their reported concerns,
- 22 percent (56 of 251) said no signs were posted at the hygiene facilities to identify the water as nonpotable, and
- 4 percent (10 of 251) said they experienced a water related medical problem.¹⁴

Figure 1. Survey of U.S. Forces Stationed in Ar Ramadi

October 2004 - May 2005



Although the interview results seemingly corroborate allegations that unsafe water was supplied to U.S forces at Ar Ramadi, the physical observations alone do not delineate water quality. Water quality standards described in TB MED 577 (1986), Chapter 2, paragraphs 2-2(a) and (b) state that potable water may or may not be palatable. Palatable water is pleasing in appearance and taste, is significantly free from color, turbidity, taste and odor, and is cool and aerated. Yet palatable water may not be potable. Thus, the determining factor for the quality level of potable and nonpotable water used for personal hygiene is not based on the visual appearance and odor of the water. TB MED 577 quality standards for nonpotable water use only one measurement in its determination of whether the water is safe for hygiene use – whether the water is chlorinated to at least 1-milligrams-per-liter of chlorine residual. Additionally, according to medical specialists, medical diagnosis of an illness related to waterborne pathogens could also be attributed to foodborne pathogens.

¹⁴ Medical problems were taken from Service member statements only and not taken from the disease non-battle injury medical database records.