



**BYE-BYE, BAGHDAD**  
When all the trucks, tanks and trailers are loaded up, Captain Antonia Carreon will fill her duffel bag and head home.

## Meet the Last Woman Standing in Iraq

*As American troops leave, it's this soldier's assignment to make sure everything gets packed up and shipped out. Antonia Carreon has her work cut out for her.*

"I won't miss Iraq," says Army Captain Antonia Carreon, 25, recalling the 108-degree heat, the sandstorms, the danger. She *will* miss her colleagues—"They're my family here," she says—and she'll miss her job. It's been a big one. As the mayor (yes, that's her title) of Contingency Operating Site Kalsu, 20 miles outside Baghdad, Carreon has, for much of the past year, ensured that everything runs smoothly for the 3,000 people stationed there. "Every time something goes wrong," she says, "we're the ones who get it fixed."

And now that job is coming to a close. In preparation for the U.S. drawdown in Iraq this month, Carreon is charged with packing up much of the base before it is handed over to the Iraqi army—meaning that this young West Point grad may be one of the last U.S. soldiers in Iraq. (If the pullout goes as planned, a small force will remain there till the end of the year.) The war—for all its miseries—was a watershed for women, with more of us in military roles than ever (we now make up about 20 percent of the force). But Carreon is looking forward to going back to the States, where she will dig in to some home-cooked chicken and rice, her boyfriend's specialty. "I miss wearing my own clothes, wearing my hair down," she says. "The first thing I want to do is hug my two crazy dogs and let them slobber all over me." —*Jackie Spinner*