



Brigadier General Suzanne Puanani Vares-Lum is the Mobilization Assistant to Director of Strategic Plans and Policy, U.S. Pacific Command at Camp Smith, Hawai'i. She has a key role in the Pacific Command's effort to shape and maintain regional security through development of diplomatic, economic, and military policies. This includes building and maintaining military-to-military and political-military relationships among 36 nations within the Pacific region covering over 51% of the globe. Activities include military to military engagements, homeland defense, extended deterrence, Women, Peace and Security, and, as a senior leader within the directorate, oversight of strategy and policy issues that influence the region.

Brigadier General Vares-Lum was commissioned as a Distinguished Military Graduate in the Military Intelligence Corps on 15 May 1988 through the Army ROTC program at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. She has served in a variety of command and staff positions throughout her 30 years of service on Active Duty and in the Hawai'i National Guard. Prior to her current position at USPACOM, she served as the Chief of the Joint Staff, Hawai'i National Guard (HING), the Vice Chief of Staff, the HING J2, and the 298th Regiment Multifunctional Training Unit Commander. Brigadier General Vares-Lum was also mobilized in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III and led the Joint Intelligence Center in Balad, Iraq.

BG Vares-Lum received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism in 1989 and her Master of Education in Teaching in 1996 from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. She is also a graduate of the U.S. Army War College and earned a Master of Strategic Studies degree in 2011. Her awards include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, and the Iraqi Campaign Medal.

BG Vares-Lum is the 19th general officer and the first female general officer commissioned from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Army ROTC program, and was inducted into the Army ROTC Hall of Fame at Ft. Knox, KY. She is an active community member who advocates for mentorship, and has been a speaker and panelist for a multitude of community events.

BG Vares-Lum was born and raised on O'ahu. She has been married to LTC (R) Courtney Vares-Lum for 28 years and has two daughters, Diana (18) and Connie (14).