

Donald Trump takes on ISIS

Mogul calling for 'extreme vetting'

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WASHINGTON — Donald Trump's ISIS battle plan, which includes "extreme vetting" of immigrants for anti-American sentiments, had him sticking to a script one political watchdog urged him to adopt more often.

"He needs to continue to hammer home the fact that national security and economic security go hand-in-hand — and not fly off the handle before it's time to give the next speech," said GOP strategist Ford O'Connell.

In a speech yesterday in Youngstown, Ohio — a crucial election battleground state — the GOP presidential nominee called for halting immigration from "the most dangerous and volatile regions of the world," as well as ideological tests to weed out those who don't embrace western values and aren't willing to assimilate to American culture.

"Pride in our institutions, our history and our values should be taught by parents, the teachers and impressed upon all those who come into our society and want to join our society," Trump said in laying out his counterterrorism plan, which also includes keeping the Guantanamo Bay detention center open, trying foreign combatants in military courts and kicking out of the country foreign nationals who "are preaching hate."

He also blasted his opponent, Democrat Hillary Clinton, saying that she "lacks the mental and physical stamina to take on ISIS."

Trump painted his counter-ISIS strategy in broad strokes, declining to give specifics, saying that his administration won't "telegraph" plans to the enemy.

But Benjamin Friedman, Research Fellow in Defense and Homeland Security Studies at the Cato Institute, called such a need for secrecy "absurd."

"The level of specificity that would be helpful to ISIS is far, far greater than anything he is offering," Friedman said, noting that even during the Cold War era, President Dwight Eisenhower offered detailed foreign policy plans to deal with communism.

Vice President Joe Biden, who stumped with Clinton in his hometown of Scranton, Pa., called Trump's claim that President Obama was an ISIS "founder" dangerous to U.S. troops abroad.

"If my son were still in Iraq, and I say to all those who are there, the threat to their life has gone up a couple clicks," said Biden, who added Trump is "totally, thoroughly unqualified" to be president.