



## **Hillary moves far from prez**

Kimberly Atkins

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Hillary Clinton has been inching slowly away from President Obama's foreign policy positions for quite some time. But after the terror attacks in Paris, she's ready to put on running shoes to get away from her former boss' stance.

Rather than focusing largely on areas where she and her former boss agree, she's doing all she can to point out their foreign policy differences and show she's hawkish enough to fight the growing Islamic State threat, as Obama faces growing criticism even from fellow Democrats.

At the outset, her top goal seemed to be showing the Democratic base that she could carry the progressive mantle as well as Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders. A more muscular foreign policy stance wasn't the way to achieve that goal.

Then the terrorist attacks in Paris changed everything.

"Sure, she is more hawkish than the Democratic rank and file and she has been. Perhaps she reasons that as upset as the rank and file might be, they would be more upset if a Republican" wins the White House, said Christopher Preble of the Cato Institute in Washington.

He noted that Clinton, President Obama's first secretary of state, has shown a willingness to swipe at Obama's foreign policy stances before. But last week, she turned it up a notch.

"Our goal is not to deter or contain ISIS, but to defeat and destroy ISIS," Clinton told the Council on Foreign Relations, rebutting Obama's claim a day before the Paris attack that ISIS had been "contained."

"We have learned that we can score victories over terrorist leaders and networks only to face metastasizing threats down the road," Clinton said. "So we also have to play and win the long game."

Her approach includes increasing airstrikes, boosting the number of special operations forces and instituting a no-fly zone over northern Syria — which Obama opposes.

“In other words: This isn’t just about defeating individual terrorists or groups, or employing a shortsighted or overly simplistic foreign policy,” said Laura Rosenberger, a Clinton campaign foreign policy adviser. “We also need a long-term strategy to contest the network and its ideology.”

Clinton may be aided by the fact that top-polling GOP candidates have taken radical stances. Donald Trump yesterday said he’d consider bringing back waterboarding, and has said he’d consider closing down some American mosques and creating a database of Muslims entering the country.

“In this environment, she’s been able to stake out a more hawkish position,” Preble said.

But no matter how much she toughens her stance now, the Republican candidates are going to try to paint her as one of the architects of Obama’s failed foreign policy. And her challenge will be to keep that from sticking.