

Obama campaign goes on the attack against “attacks”

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The website is dark and ominous-looking.

Pictures of conservative commentator Glenn Beck and leading Republican presidential candidates fade in and out. Headlines such as “Rick Perry’s massive jobs lie” and “Romney’s job chart shows flawed understanding of the facts” scroll across the top.

Is it a left-leaning blog meant to criticize a “right wing conspiracy”?

Not exactly.

Though you wouldn’t know it without reading the “Paid for by Obama for America” tag at the bottom, the site — attackwatch.com — is the latest effort by President Barack Obama’s campaign to preempt what it sees as smears and false attacks from its opponents.

“Here’s the deal: We all remember the birth certificate smear, the GOP’s barrage of lies about the [Affordable Care Act](#), and the string of other phony attacks on President Obama that we’ve seen over the past few years,” campaign manager Jim Messina wrote in an email. “There are a lot of folks on the other side who are chomping at the bit to distort the President’s record. It’s not a question of if the next big lie will come, just when — and what we’re prepared to do about it.”

The site gives readers a chance to donate to Obama’s cause and report an “attack.”

Is the campaign especially worried this time around about opposition research hurting Obama?

A spokesman declined to comment on that specifically, but said the site was aimed at helping Obama supporters wade through the information deluge.

“As we learned during the 2008 campaign, we live in an era where attacks, rumors, and outright falsehoods that no reporter ever checked out and no editor ever reviewed go viral, hitting millions of inboxes with no filter for accuracy,” spokesman Ben LaBolt said in an email. “The best response to this is to arm our supporters with the tools to reach their networks and fight back with the facts.”

Republicans said Obama’s record spoke for itself.

“Obama’s policies have made our economy worse and [his poll numbers](#) prove voters don’t believe he has the leadership to turn it around,” said Kirsten Kukowski, a spokeswoman for the Republican National Committee. “Unfortunately for Americans and Obama’s campaign, no website is going to change that.”

Photo Credit: <http://www.attackwatch.com/>