# Table of Contents

$\mathbf{D}^{\lambda}$		. 6	 חום	TION
	11.7		 RIP	

1.1	ESSENTIAL SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS	2
1.1.1	Outlining Safety	2
1.1.2	Safety Instructions	
	for Handling the ZF-56	2
1.1.3	Safety Instructions for Live Fire	3
1.1.4	Exclusion of Liability and Warranty	3
1.2	DESCRIPTION OF THE ZF-56	4
1.2.1	Designations	4
1.2.2	Intended Use	4
1.2.3	Functional Elements	5
1.2.4	Assembly Groups	6
1.3	TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION	7
1.3.1	Safety Features	8
1.3.2	Functional Elements	8
1.3.3	Firing Sequence	8
1.3.4	Ammunition Recommendation	9

# >> PART 2: HANDLING

2.1.1	Performing a Safety Check	10
2.1.2	Performing a Function Check	11
2.2	PREPARATIONS	12
2.2.1	Using a Sling	12
2.2.2	<b>Mounting Optics and Accessories on</b>	
	Picatinny Rail	12
2.2.3	Using the ZF-56 with	
	a Silencer/Suppressor	12
2.2.4	Loading the Magazine	13
2.3	OPERATION	14
2.3.1	Safety Selector	14

2.1 CHECKS ......10

2.3.2	Inserting the Magazine	14
2.3.3	Chambering a Cartridge	14
2.3.4	Firing Position and Aiming	14
2.3.5	Removing the Magazine	15
2.3.6	Clearing the Chamber (Unloading)	15
	Reloading the ZF-56	
2.3.8	Emptying the Magazine	16
2.4	DISASSEMBLING THE ZF-56	17
	Disassembling the Bolt Carrier Group	
	Disassembling the Lower/Trigger Group.	
2.5	CLEANING THE ZF	22
	General Instructions for Cleaning	
2.6	ASSEMBLING THE ZF-56	23
	Assembling the Bolt Carrier Grou	
	Assembling the Lower Receiver	
	Assembling the Upper Receiver	
	Re-assembling the ZF-56	
2.7	STORING YOUR ZF-56	25
2.8	TROUBLESHOOTING:	
	PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS	26

## >> PART 3: WARRANTY

ZENITH FIREARMS LIMITED	
LIFETIME WARRANTY	. 29



# >> Part 1: Description

### 1.1 ESSENTIAL SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

The ZF-56 is designed and manufactured to precise specifications and recognized safety standards. Nevertheless, using this firearm in an unsafe manner may result in injury or death of the user, third parties, or damage to the firearm or property. ATTENTION: Zenith shall not be held accountable for any death, injury, or damage to property resulting from any intentional, unintentional, or accidental discharge of the firearm, or from any firearm feature when used for improper purposes for which it was not designed. Zenith will not honor claims involving the firearm that resulted from careless or improper handling, unauthorized use, or neglect.

- **1.** Follow all safety instructions in this operator's manual. Non-compliance may result in injury or death.
- **2.** Do not handle the firearm if you are tired, feel unwell, or have consumed alcohol, drugs, or medications.
- **3.** Do not use the firearm for criminal acts or in support of criminal activities.

# 1.1.1 Outlining Safety

This operator's manual is an integral component of the firearms' safety standards.

- 1. Do not use the firearm until you have read or if you do not understand any part of this manual or you are unsure about the operation.
- 2. Keep this operator's manual for the

entire service life of the firearm.

- **3.** If you receive updates from Zenith, add them to this operator's manual.
- **4.** Pass this operator's manual on to any subsequent operator or owner.
- **5.** Do not entrust the firearm to anyone who has not read and understands this operator's manual.

# 1.1.2 Safety Instructions for Handling the ZF-56

- 1. Take special care when handling firearms, because muzzle position and direction changes can occur very easily.
- **2.** Keep the safety selector in the "safe" position at all times, until ready to fire.
- **3.** Only use the firearm when it is in good condition.
- **4.** Treat the firearm as if there is a round of ammunition in the chamber until you verify whether or not it is loaded.
- **5.** Keep the firearm unloaded when handling for purposes other than loading or firing.
- **6.** Only use the firearm for its intended purpose. Using the firearm for other than its intended purpose may result in damage and/or an accidental discharge of the firearm.
- 7. Do not play with the firearm.
- **8.** Never point the firearm at people or property when handling or practicing with it. Maintain muzzle discipline at all times.
- **9.** Do not touch the trigger when loading, unloading, aiming, or handling the firearm in any other way until you are ready to fire your firearm.
- **10.** Keep your trigger finger outside of the trigger quard until you are ready to fire.
- 11. Do not use excessive force when handling, disassembling, cleaning, or



assembling the firearm.

- **12.** Avoid unnecessary dry firing as it can lead to premature wear.
- **13.** Store the firearm and ammunition separately.
- **14.** Prevent access to the firearm and ammunition by unauthorized persons, especially children.
- **15.** Never give or take the firearm from another person unless it is unloaded and the bolt is in the open position with the safety engaged.
- **16.** Immediately fix any issue that compromises the safe operation of the firearm.
- 17. Exposure to exceptional stress such as hitting a hard object or dropping the firearm may have a negative effect on the firearm's safe operation. Have the firearm inspected by the manufacturer or a trained armorer, if this occurs.
- **18.** Do not rely on the safety features of the firearm alone. Safety features are not a substitute for careful, correct handling of the firearm.
- **19.** When using accessories and ammunition, follow the instructions provided by the respective manufacturers and verify its compatibility with Zenith Firearms.

## 1.1.3 Safety Instructions for Live Fire

- **1.** Wear eye and ear protection when handling and firing the ZF-56.
- **2.** Keep your hands out of the path of the bolt and the muzzle.
- 3. Keep your muzzle area clear.
- **4.** Do not shoot at doors, panes of glass, walls, concrete, stone, or smooth surfaces (including water). Ammunition projectiles can penetrate these objects and/or deflect

in an unsafe direction.

- **5.** Only pull the trigger when the firearm is pointing at the target and the area behind the target is free from other persons, structures, buildings, obstructions, or objects for as far as the projectile is able to travel. A 5.56 mm round of ammunition can travel approximately 0.85 miles.
- **6.** Only use factory-loaded ammunition of the correct caliber.
- **7.** Do not touch the barrel and/or flash hider or muzzle device as it heats up during firing.

## 1.1.4 Exclusion of Liability and Warranty

Zenith Firearms accepts no liability and provides no warranty for incidents resulting from:

- 1. Non-compliance with this manual
- 2. Incorrect handling of the firearm
- **3.** Negligence
- 4. Improper use or unsafe practices
- **5.** Modifications, attachments to, or conversion of the firearm without the express written consent of Zenith Firearms.
- **6.** Use of accessories or spare parts from other manufacturers without the express written consent of Zenith Firearms.
- **7.** The ZF-56 has a proprietary lower receiver, upper receiver, and handguard. Parts and accessories from other manufacturers might not immediately fit to the ZF-56, and excessive handfitting of these parts might affect the manufacturer's warranty.
- **8.** Some aesthetic feature or defects resulting from the manufacturing process.



### 1.2 DESCRIPTION OF THE ZF-56

The ZF-56 is a semi-automatic pistol and/ or rifle with a roller-delayed blowback operating system. The lower and upper receiver as well as the handguard features well known AR-style characteristics, while retaining the iconic "slap" of the charging handle. It also features a last round bolt hold open system and fully ambidextrous safety selector, bolt catch, and magazine release. The ZF-56 is crafted using MIL-standard aluminum and the highest quality steel. It is chambered in 5.56mm x 45 and accepts standard AR magazines. The ZF-56 has a full length Picatinny rail and a cold hammer-forged FNC treated barrel with ½ x 28 right hand threaded end for suppression. The AR-style trigger has a 6-7lb pull weight and a AR buffer tube compatible end cap or stock.

### 1.2.1 Designations

Depending on the variant, the ZF-56 may be classified as a pistol, rifle, machine gun or SBR. Follow all BATFE and NFA regulations when configuring your ZF-56 to your needs. Consult with the BATFE regarding relevant NFA questions.

#### 1.2.2 Intended Use

The ZF-56 is effective against targets at ranges up to 500-600 yards (450-550 meters). The ZF-56 excels in many roles including, but not limited to: sporting uses, self-defense, or law enforcement and security applications.



### The orientations of the 2 images below refer to the sides of your firearm when it is shouldered.

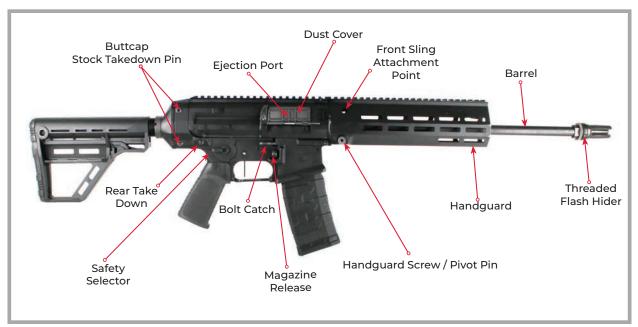


Figure: 1 ZF-56 right side view

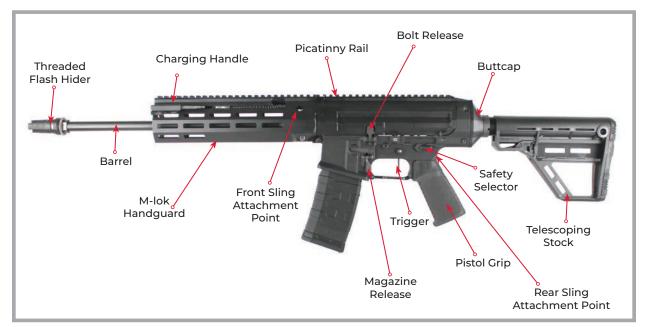


Figure 2: ZF-56 left side view



# 1.2.4 Assembly Groups



Figure 3: ZF-56 assembly groups



<b>ZF</b> ZENITH FIREARM!	ZF-56 SPECIFICATIONS semi-automatic roller delayed blowback
caliber	5.56 x 45 mm
operating system	roller delayed blowback
mode of fire	semi-automatic
magazine	30 round polymer
trigger pull	6-7 lbs.
safety	manually actuated lever
weight, firearm without magazine	6.5-7.6 lbs.
weight, empty magazine	0.35 lbs.
magazine full weight	1.25 lbs.
length	24"-36 5/8" .
height	8"
width	2.5"
barrel length	12" , 14.5 ", or 16 "
barrel	cold hammer forged 4150 CMV, 1/2 X28 RH threaded
rifling	6 grooves, RH twist 1:7"
forearm	integrated
warranty	limited lifetime

Figure 4: ZF-56 Specifications



### 1.3.1 Safety Features

The safety selector prevents accidental actuation of the trigger. In the "0" or "safe" position, (see figure 5), the selector axle and trigger tail prevent rearward trigger movement.

When the safety selector is rotated to the "1" or "fire" position, (see figure 6) the axle rotates and creates a cavity for the trigger tail to enter, allowing the trigger to move rearward and release the sear from the hammer.



Figure 5: "Safe" position



Figure 6: "Fire" position

### 1.3.2 Functional Elements

The safety selector (figure 5) is used to make the firearm safe and to select the mode of fire. The push button magazine release allows (see Figure 1) removal of the magazine.

A silencer can be attached to the ZF-56 via the threads at the end of the barrel. The charging handle (figure 1) is used to open and close the bolt in order to chamber or clear the firearm.

The buttstock, if attached, can be telescoping or folded (depending on variant).

The front and rear sling attachment points (figure 1) can be used to mount a sling.

Front and rear sights can be installed using the full length picatinny rail (figure 1 or 2).

### 1.3.3 Firing Sequence

Initial state: The bolt carrier group (see Figure 3) is pulled all the way back manually using the charging handle. This causes the bolt carrier group to cock the hammer. The firearm has a loaded magazine inserted. (see Section 2.3.2)

### **ZF-56 Operational Cycle**

### > STEP ONE

Feeding: A cartridge is removed from the loaded magazine when the charging handle is released.

The bolt group moves forward in the receiver as the recoil spring assembly decompresses. As it passes through the feed lips of the magazine, the top cartridge is stripped from



the magazine and travels forward with the bolt to the chamber.

### > STEP TWO

# Chambering: A cartridge is placed into the chamber of the barrel and secured.

The bolt continues its forward progress and inserts the cartridge into the chamber until the front of the cartridge case contacts the end of the chamber.

### > STEP THREE

# Locking: Before firing, the breech is completely closed and temporarily locked.

The bolt completes its forward movement as the extractor secures the cartridge case and the breech of the bolt contacts the face of the barrel. Even as the bolt head's forward progress is stopped, the locking piece and bolt carrier continue to move forward until the locking rollers have been pushed into position by the locking piece.

### > STEP FOUR

# Firing: The primer of the cartridge is activated, igniting the powder.

A trigger pull causes the sear to release the hammer, which forcefully contacts the firing pin. The firing pin is driven forward into the primer of the unfired cartridge. Once activated, the primer detonates to ignite the powder contents of the cartridge for firing.

### > STEP FIVE

# Unlocking: The locking piece is moved rearward away from the rollers, allowing the bolt assembly to unlock and open.

Once fired, rearward pressure is applied to the bolt head assembly, locking rollers, and locking piece. The locking piece then moves to the rear, away from the rollers, causing the bolt to unlock.

#### > STEP SIX

# Extracting: The spent cartridge case is removed from the chamber.

Gas expands from the inside of the cartridge case to the flutes of the chamber. Expanding gases surround the cartridge case in the flutes assisting the spent case to be removed. This prevents sticking in the chamber.

### > STEP SEVEN

# Ejecting: The spent cartridge case is expelled from the firearm.

The extractor assembly continues to secure the spent cartridge case to the face of the bolt head as it moves rearward. The channel at the bottom of the bolt head allows it to travel past the ejector until the spent case is engaged by the ejector, expelling it through the ejection port.

### > STEP EIGHT

Cocking: The trigger assembly is reset to allow follow-up shots.

**Semi-auto configuration:** The bolt carrier group moves rearward under recoil, and resets the hammer, compressing it to the cocked position where it is retained by the sear.

**Full-auto configuration:** The bolt carrier group moves rearward under recoil, and resets the hammer, compressing it to the cocked position. As the bolt carrier moves forward, the hammer begins to follow the carrier until it is temporarily retained by the catch. The bolt carrier continues to move into battery, and the trip lever is released, allowing the hammer to move to the sear for retention, recharge, and repeat fire.



### 1.3.4 Ammunition Recommendations

The Zenith ZF-56 is designed to fire high-quality, new production factory-loaded brass ammunition that meets SAAMI or NATO specifications. It is imperative that ammunition of the correct caliber is used to prevent damaging the firearm and to avoid serious injury or death.

Zenith highly recommends inspecting each cartridge for damage, corrosion, or other abnormalities before loading a magazine for firing.

### **Break-In Period Recommendations**

During the 300-500 round break-in period of a brand-new firearm, Zenith recommends NATO-spec or other high-quality, high-pressure ammunition having a bullet weight of 55 grains or more.

### Post Break-In Period Recommendations

Factory new brass-case ammunition meeting NATO or SAAMI specs from 55 grains to 85 grains

### DO NOT USE:

- > Aluminum-cased ammunition
- > Hand-loaded or remanufactured ammunition
- > Ammunition of the wrong caliber
- Ammunition that has been damaged, corroded, or exposed to water, lubricants, grease, or other contaminants
- > Exposed lead projectile ammunition
- > Low pressure ammunition
- > Outdated surplus ammunition
- > Ammunition that has been exposed to extreme temperatures

# >> PART 2: Handling

### 2.1 CHECKS

### 2.1.1 Performing a Safety Check

Successful completion of the safety check verifies that there is no ammunition in the firearm. The safety check is especially important when giving or taking the firearm from someone or when the status of the firearm is unknown.

- 1. Point the firearm in a safe direction.
- **2.** Move the selector lever to the "0" or "safe" position.
- **3.** Remove the magazine from the firearm by pressing the mag release button.
- **4.** Move the charging handle to the rear and lock it in place.
- **5.** Inspect the firearm's chamber visually and physically to make sure that it is clear.



### 2.1.2 Performing a Function Check

Successful completion of the function check verifies that the firearm is operating correctly. The function check is especially important after reassembly of the firearm.

**WARNING:** PRIOR TO PERFORMING A FUNCTION CHECK - REMOVE THE MAGAZINE AND CLEAR THE CHAMBER. ENSURE THE FIREARM IS POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION AT ALL TIMES.

### Semi-auto configuration:

- 1. Verify the firearm is unloaded (see section 2.1.1).
- **2.** Remove the magazine (see section 2.3.5, Figure 12).
- **3.** Move the charging handle (see Figure 1, page 4) completely backward and forward several times.
- **4.** Release the charging handle and allow the bolt group to snap forward.
- **5.** Move the safety selector (see Figure 1) to the "0" or "safe" position.
- **6.** Pull the trigger (see Figure 1). The hammer should remain cocked.
- **7.** Move the safety selector to the semi-auto "1" or "fire" position.
- **8.** Pull the trigger and hold it all the way to the rear. You should hear the hammer release and impact the firing pin.
- **9.** Continue to hold the trigger to the rear and pull the charging handle back and release the charging handle to simulate a round firing.
- **10.** Release the trigger. You should feel and hear the trigger reset, and the hammer should not move forward to strike the firing pin.
- 11. Insert an empty magazine and verify that it seats correctly and that it is retained. Try

to remove it without manipulation of the magazine release.

**12.** After verification of magazine retention, remove it by pushing the button magazine release (see section 2.3.5).

# Full-auto configuration:

- 1. Complete steps 1 through 10 from the semi-auto configuration.
- **2.** Move the selector lever to the "full-auto fire" position.
- **3.** Pull the trigger and hold it all the way to the rear. You should hear the hammer release and impact the firing pin.
- **4.** Continue to hold the trigger to the rear and pull the charging handle back and release it several times. Each time the charging handle completes its forward travel, the hammer should release and strike the firing pin.
- **5.** Release the trigger and pull the charging handle to the rear and release. You should feel and hear the trigger reset, and the hammer should not move forward to strike the firing pin.
- **6.** Complete steps 11 12 from the semi-auto Configuration



## >> 2.2 PREPARATIONS

## 2.2.1 Using a Sling

### Mounting the Sling to the ZF-56

The ZF-56 is equipped with 3-4 sling mounting points, depending on the configuration

# **Depending on the variant of the ZF-56**, attach the sling of your choice using the QD

sling mounts to the rear and front mounting points of the firearm (figure 1).

# Adjusting the Length of the Carrying Sling

Regardless of which type is used, the length of the sling is optimal if the firearm can be shouldered/extended without compromising the proper position for shooting and manipulation of the safety selector.

Attach the sling to the firearm. Loosen the sling to its maximum setting. Mount the sling to your body.



Figure 7: Mounting the carrying sling to the ZF-56

Extend the firearm out to a natural shooting position. Have another person tighten the sling until it is at the appropriate length and secure the loose end with a band.



Figure 8: User with ZF-56 and 2-point sling.

# 2.2.2 Mounting Optics and Accessories on Picatinny Rail

The ZF-56 is equipped with a picatinny rail extending from the rear of the upper receiver to the front of the handguard. The rail is a standard MIL-STD 1913 rail, and all compatible sights and optics can be mounted on it according to the manufacturer's recommendations.

# 2.2.3 Using the ZF-56 with a Silencer/Suppressor

Firing with a silencer places greater stress on the firearm and contributes to faster wear on internal components, as well as heavier fouling. If the firearm is used with a silencer, it is recommended that the firearm be cleaned every 500 rounds and lightly lubricated more frequently. Heavy lubrication will cause excessive smoking while firing, which may cause eye irritation or breathing difficulties.



Figure 9: Direct thread installation



Due to the change in velocity of a bullet being fired with a silencer, the point of impact may change. Readjusting the sights may be necessary.

- **1.** Ensure the firearm is unloaded and place the safety selector in the "safe" position.
- **2.** Verify that no obstructions are present in the silencer.
- **3.** Thread the silencer on the barrel, utilizing the correct thread pitch. The ZF-56 has a  $\frac{1}{2}$  x 28rh thread pitch.
- **4.** Ensure that the silencer is fully threaded securely on the barrel.
- **5.** Check with an alignment rod
- 6. Load the firearm and fire.
- **7.** After firing has been completed and the silencer has cooled down adequately, remove the silencer.
- **8.** Inspect the mounting point on the barrel and on the silencer, as cleaning may be necessary prior to mounting the silencer for follow-up use.

### 2.2.4 Loading the Magazine

### Magazine loading sequence

- **1.** Grasp the magazine.
- **2.** Push the cartridge straight down, under the magazine lips (figure 16).
- **3.** Be sure the cartridge sits all the way to the rear of the magazine.
- **4.** Repeat steps 2-3 until reaching the desired number of Cartridges and no more than the full capacity indicated for the specific magazine.

Push one round of ammunition in at a time with the projectile forward, straight down onto the follower.

Allow each additional round to offset as they stagger to fill the magazine.

# RISK OF FIREARM DAMAGE AND INJURY OR DEATH TO PERSON



Damaged, dented, or fouled cartridges can damage the firearm and cause malfunctions, along with serious injury or death. Only use newly manufactured factory-loaded

ammunition that is in good condition

# RISK OF FIREARM MALFUNCTION AND DAMAGE



An overfilled magazine can lead to malfunctions or damage to the firearm.

Only load the magazine with the number of rounds of ammunition indicated on the magazine

# RISK OF FIREARM MALFUNCTION AND MAGAZINE DAMAGE



Keeping the magazine filled for long periods can result in damage to the magazine spring and may cause malfunctions. Remove all of the ammunition from the magazine before placing it in long-term storage.

### **RISK OF DAMAGE**



Sustained firing in the "full-auto" position can damage the silencer. Only fire with the silencer in "semi- auto" position or with short bursts in the "full-auto" position to avoid overheating the barrel and silencer (unless the silencer is specifically rated for full-auto and then follow the manufacturer's directions).

### **RISK OF BURN**



The silencer becomes very hot during firing. Do not remove the silencer from the firearm until it has sufficiently cooled to avoid being burned and keep away from materials that may melt or catch fire...



# >> 2.3 OPERATION

### 2.3.1 Safety Selector

The ambidextrous safety selector has two positions, "FIRE" (1) and "SAFE" (0). A single shot will be fired each time the trigger is pulled when the selector is set to "FIRE". When set to "SAFE" the movement of the trigger is blocked, preventing the hammer from being released.

## 2.3.2 Inserting the Magazine

- 1. Load the magazine (see Section 2.2.4).
- **2.** Move the safety selector (figure 5) to the "safe" position.
- **3.** Lock the charging handle to the rear.
- **4.** Insert the magazine into the firearm until the magazine catch engages to secure it properly.
- **5.** Pull down on the magazine to verify that it is locked properly in the magazine well.



Figure 10: The magazine inserting

# ACCIDENTAL OR NEGLIGENT DISCHARGES CAN CAUSE SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH



A firearm with a round of ammunition in the chamber is a potential source of danger.
Only chamber a round of ammunition immediately before firing.

Unload the firearm immediately after firing.

# 2.3.3 Chambering a Cartridge

- **1.** Pull the charging handle (figure 1) all the way back and lock it in place.
- 2. Insert the loaded magazine into the magazine well (see Section 2.3.2).
- **3.** Release the charging handle and let it travel forward under the full force of the recoil spring. Do not attempt to ease the charging handle forward. There is now a cartridge in the chamber.

**Note:** There will be resistance to properly seating a fully loaded magazine with the bolt closed.

## 2.3.4 Firing Position and Aiming



Figure 1

WARNING: ENSURE THE ZF-56 IS POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION AND THE SAFETY IS SET TO SAFE AT ALL TIMES WHILE HANDLING AND LOADING. KEEP YOUR FINGERS OR OTHER OBJECTS FROM CONTACT WITH THE TRIGGER WHILE LOADING OR UNLOADING YOUR FIREARM

- 1. Always wear ear and eye protection when handling your firearm.
- **2.** Prepare the firearm for firing by adjusting the sling of your choice and installing desired sights, optics and accessories.
- 3. Familiarize yourself fully with the ZF-56



before firing. Practice your stance, aim, and breathing for steady handling with your UNLOADED firearm.

- **4.** Load firearm as previously described (see Section 2.3.2)
- **5.** Chamber a cartridge (see Section 2.3.3).
- **6.** Grasp the forearm grip with your nondominant hand, place dominant hand on pistol grip with trigger finger off the trigger, raise smoothly, bring buttstock to shoulder, and avoid holding the magazine. Firing while holding the magazine may cause malfunctions.
- **7.** Move the safety selector (see Figure 6) to the "fire" position.
- **8.** Aim by aligning front and/or rear sights to the desired target.
- **9.** Keep steady aim, while placing trigger finger on the trigger and squeezing gently until the trigger releases the hammer. Avoid jerking the trigger.
- **10.** Continue firing by releasing the trigger and squeezing it again after every shot until the magazine is empty.
- 11. When the magazine is empty, release the trigger, remove finger from trigger, and set selector lever to "SAFE". After the last round, the bolt carrier group will be held open to the rear allowing a quick reload by replacing the magazine, or the chamber can be checked to ensure it is clear.

### **RISK OF INJURY**



The firearm's recoil can cause injury. When firing, pull the firearm firmly into your shoulder if using a stock. If firing as a pistol, push out toward the target against a sling to provide a stable firing platform. Keep your eye at least 2 inches from the rear of the firearm when firing. Keep your hands away from the muzzle when firing.

### 2.3.5 Removing the Magazine

- 1. Grasp the magazine (see Figure 1).
- 2. Press on push button magazine release.
- **3.** Remove the magazine by pulling it down and out of the magazine well
- **4.** Move the selector to the "safe" position. (figure 5)



Figure 12: Removing the magazine

# 2.3.6 Clearing the Chamber (Unloading)

- **1.** Press the ambidextrous magazine release button to remove the magazine.
- **2.** Pull back the charging handle and lock into handguard groove. This cocks the hammer and locks the bolt carrier group to the rear. If a round or a spent cartridge remains in the chamber, it will eject.
- **3.** Ensure the selector is in the "safe" position.
- **4.** Visually inspect the chamber to ensure it is empty.
- **5.** With the firearm pointed in a safe direction, slap the charging handle. This will release the bolt carrier group.
- **6.** Close the ejection port cover (dust cover).



# **RISK OF INJURY**

A firearm with a cartridge in the chamber is a potential source of danger.



# 2.3.7 Reloading the ZF-56

- 1. There is a bolt hold open feature on the ZF-56, which will keep the bolt open after the last round has been fired.
- 2. After bolt remained open, remove the magazine (figure 12).
- 3. Insert a new loaded magazine into the firearm
- **4.** Continue firing



### RISK OF INJURY

The bolt travels forward quickly when the charging handle is released.

# 2.3.8 Emptying the Magazine

1. Push cartridges forward and out of the magazine by hand. Using a sharp tool to remove a cartridge from the rear may detonate the primer.



Figure 13: Emptying the magazine



### **RISK OF INJURY**

Impacts to the primer can ignite the cartridge.



## >>2.4 DISASSEMBLING THE ZF-56

- **1.** Ensure chamber is clear of ammunition.
- **2.** Make sure the bolt assembly is in the forward (battery) position.
- **3.** To remove the stock or a butt cap from the receiver, remove the two rear push pins.
- **4.** Slide the take down pin out. The firearm's upper receiver will now pivot forward.
- **5.** Take care to not misplace the pins.
- **6.** To completely separate the lower receiver from the upper receiver, slide the front pivot pin out (figure 15).
- **7.** Holding the upper receiver in your right hand, grab the charging handle with your left hand and pull back so the bolt comes to the rear.
- **8.** Remove the bolt carrier group assembly (bolt carrier, bolt head, and two recoil springs) from the receiver (figure 16).
- **9.** Remove handguard retainer screw and slide handguard off the muzzle end of the firearm (figure 17 & 18).

## **RISK OF DAMAGE**



The use of excessive force during disassembly, cleaning, and assembly can damage the firearm.

Do not use excessive force when disassembling and assembling the firearm.



### **RISK OF INJURY**

Improper disassembly/reassembly may cause malfunctions and lead to injury.
Limit the extent of disassembly to the instructions in this manual and no further.



### **RISK OF INJURY**

If the charging handle and bolt group are locked to the rear, the recoil spring is under tension.

# Release the bolt group forward before disassembly.



Figure 14: Steps 3



Figure 15: Steps 4-6





Figure 16: Step 7



Figure 17: Step 9



Figure 18: Step 9

# 2.4.1 Disassembling the Bolt Carrier Group

- 1. Remove the recoil springs assemblies from the rear of the bolt carrier (figure 19).
- 2. Grasp the bolt head in one hand and the bolt carrier in the other, pull out slightly and rotate the bolt head 90 degrees to the right until it releases from the locking piece (figure 20).
- **3.** At this point the locking piece can be removed from the bolt carrier. Remove it, along with the firing pin and firing pin spring from the bolt carrier (figure 21).
- **4.** The bolt group is now disassembled (figure 22).

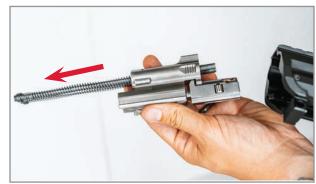


Figure 19: Step 1



Figure 20: Step 2



Figure 21: Step 3



Figure 22: Step 11

# 2.4.2 Disassembling the Lower/Trigger Group

- 1. Remove the grip screw and grip being sure to secure the safety selector spring and detent pin.
- **2.** Remove the right side hex head screw and remove the safety selector. Do not misplace the screw (figure 23).
- **3.** Remove the ejector axle retainer (roll pin) from top to bottom (figure 24).
- **4.** With your thumb on the hammer, pull the trigger and ease the hammer to the forward position.
- **5.** Push the ejector axle pin in towards the trigger pocket and retrieve it from the receiver (figure 25).
- 6. Remove the ejector and ejector spring.



Figure 23: Step 2



Figure 24: Step 3



Figure 25: Steps 5-6



- 7. Remove the hammer pin retainer (roll pin) and trigger pin retainer (roll pin) from bottom to top. (figure 26)
- 8. Drift the hammer pin from right to left and remove the hammer and hammer spring. (figure 28)
- 9. Drift the trigger pin from right to left and remove trigger, trigger spring, disconnector and disconnector spring. (figure 29-30).



Figure 28: Step 8



Figure 26: Step 7



Figure 29: Step 9



Figure 27: Step 8



Figure 30: Step 9

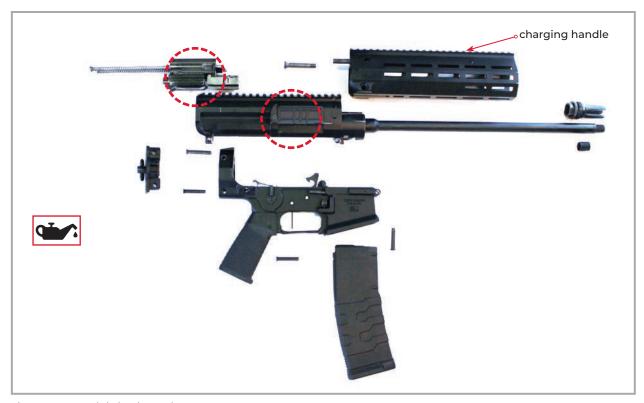


Figure 31: ZF-56 lubrication points

### **RISK OF DAMAGE**



The use of excessive force during disassembly, cleaning, and assembly can damage the firearm.

Do not use excessive force when disassembling and assembling the firearm.

### **RISK OF DAMAGE**



Lubricating the magazine or rounds of ammunition may result in damage and malfunctions.

Lubricating ammunition cartridges may result in deadening of the primer or damage to the firearm.



### **RISK OF INJURY**

Improper disassembly/reassembly may cause malfunctions and lead to injury.
Limit the extent of disassembly to a basic field strip as described in this manual.

### RISK OF DAMAGE



Improper cleaning materials and products can damage the firearm.
When cleaning the firearm, use products specified for firearm maintenance.
Do not use any metallic objects, or harsh chemical agents to clean the firearm.
Do not clean the firearm in an ultrasonic bath for long periods of time, or at high temperatures.



# >>2.5 CLEANING THE ZF-56

### 2.5.1 General Instructions for Cleaning

Frequent cleaning and lubrication provide several benefits:

- > Prevents premature wear
- > Maintains the highest level of reliability
- > Makes the next cleaning easier and less time consuming

Clean the firearm each time it is fired and at intervals of 1000 rounds. Cleaning intervals should be every 500 rounds when using a silencer/suppressor.

## Required Materials: Cleaning Kit and Oil

- 1. Disassemble the firearm (Sect 2.4).
- 2. Visually check the firearm for damage.
- **3.** Clean fouled parts and surfaces using cleaning cloths or brushes.
- **4.** Assemble a barrel cleaning brush on the cleaning rod.
- 5. Clean the chamber using the brush.
- **6.** Pull lubricated cleaning brush through the barrel several times from the inside of the receiver, not from the muzzle end. Always clean from the chamber toward the muzzle.
- **7.** Replace the barrel cleaning brush with a clean pull-through on the cleaning rod or a bore snake.
- **8.** Run a clean pull-through or bore snake through the barrel several times until it is free of oil and fouling.
- **9.** Lightly lubricate a patch on a cleaning rod or a bore snake.
- **10.** Pull it through the barrel from the chamber.
- 11. Use a cleaning brush with CLP scrub/

clean the firing pin, locking piece, lip of the extractor, and the outside of bolt head, bolt carrier, and recoil springs.

- **12.** Wipe all components clean and dry, and inspect for excessive wear, corrosion or mechanical damage. Have an armorer or a gunsmith replace any worn or defective parts before firing.
- **13.** Wipe any dirt from the trigger mechanism. Carefully clean the magazine release button and the cavity for the magazine catch on the left side of the receiver. Also inspect and clean the bolt catch mechanism and receiver's takedown and pivot pins.
- **14.** Lubricate designated points on the firearm, as well as any other metal-to-metal bearing surfaces (figure 31).
- 15. Assemble the firearm (see Section 2.6).
- **16.** Conduct a function check (see Section 2.1.2).

Use only approved gun solvent and oils and a nylon brush, followed by thorough drying with a clean cloth.

Before reassembling your ZF-56 firearm, ALL PARTS MUST BE COMPLETELY DRY!



# >>2.6 ASSEMBLING THE ZF-56



Figure 32: rifle assembly

#### **Assembling the Bolt Carrier Group** 2.6.1

- 1. Place the firing pin spring over the firing pin and place both inside the rear of the locking piece.
- 2. With the lug of the locking piece facing down, hold it with your left hand. With your right hand, hold the bolt carrier. Insert the locking piece into the bolt carrier and push inwards against the tension of the firing pin spring and rotate the locking piece 45 degrees to the left (figure 33).
- 3. The bolt will lock into position, and you can now move it forward and back over the locking piece (figures 34 & 35).
- **4.** Reinsert the recoil spring into the rear of the bolt carrier (figure 36).
- 5. The bolt group is now assembled.



Figure 33: Step 2



Figure 34: Step 3



Figure 35: Step 3 (rotation)

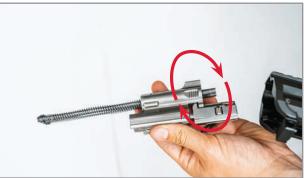


Figure 36: Step 4



# 2.6.2 Assembling the Lower Receiver

## 1.Install the trigger assembly:

- Insert the trigger and, trigger spring into the lower receiver.
- > Place the disconnector spring and disconnector into the lower receiver.
- > Align the trigger pin holes and drift the trigger pin from left to right to secure the assembly.

### 2. Install the hammer:

- > Insert the hammer and spring into the lower receiver, aligning the pin holes.
- > Drift the hammer pin from left to right to secure the hammer.

## 3. Install the roll pins:

- > Insert the trigger pin retainer roll pin from bottom to top.
- > Insert the hammer pin retainer roll pin from bottom to top.

### 4. Install the ejector:

- > Insert the ejector spring into the lower receiver.
- > Place the ejector on the spring and align the ejector axle hole.
- > From the inside, push the ejector axle pin through the receiver and ejector
- > Secure with roll pin.

### 5. Install the safety selector:

- > Insert the safety selector into the lower receiver.
- > Install the right-side hex head screw to secure the safety selector.

### **6.** Install the grip:

- > Install safety selector detent into the receiver and safety detent spring into grip.
- > Attach the grip to the lower receiver and tighten the grip screw.

# 2.6.3 Assembling the Upper Receiver

**1.** Reassemble the bolt carrier group as described in Section 2.6.1

### 2. Install the bolt assembly:

- > Insert the bolt carrier group assembly with the bolt forward into the upper receiver.
- > Install the two recoil spring assemblies.s.
- > Ease the bolt carrier forward and guide the bolt into battery.



Figure 41

### 3. Install the handguard:

- > Slide the handguard over nto the muzzle end of the firearm.
- > Secure the handguard with the handguard retainer screw.

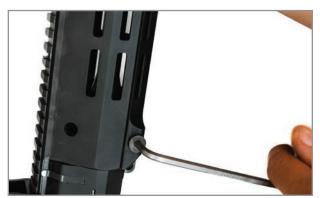


Figure 42



### 2.6.4 Re-assembling the ZF-56

## Mate the upper and lower receivers:

- > Align the upper and lower receiver components.
- > Insert the pivot pin and secure it.
- > Insert the takedown pin and push it to the closed position.



Figure 43



Figure 44



Figure 45



After reassembly of ZF-56 please turn back to 2.1.2 Performing a Function Check and follow the instructions to test your firearm.

# >> 2.7 STORING YOUR ZF-56

## WARNING: BEFORE STORING, REMOVE THE MAGAZINE AND CLEAR THE CHAMBER.

- 1. After clearing the chamber, check that the bolt carrier group assembly is in the forward (battery) position.
- 2. Point the gun in a safe direction and pull the trigger so the hammer is in a fired state.
- **3.** Close the dust cover
- 4. Store the firearm in a locked case in a safe area.
- **5.** If storing your rifle for an extended period of time, use lightte oil in the barrel and chamber to prevent corrosion.

### **RISK OF INJURY OR DEATH**

In the event of a malfunction, the firearm may be loaded even if you expect it to be unloaded. In the event of a malfunction, treat the firearm as if there was a round of ammunition in the chamber.



In the event of a malfunction, verify whether the firearm is actually loaded or unloaded. Follow fundamental safety instructions (see Section 1) before attempting to resolve malfunctions.



# >> 2.8 TROUBLESHOOTING: PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

Troubleshooting malfunctions that exceed the scope of this manual will void the firearm's warranty! Only Zenith Firearms-authorized armorers may diagnose and address more serious malfunctions in the firearm.

Problem/Malfunction	Possible Cause	Solution
	Safety Selector is on "safe" Improper Assembly of the firing Pin	Select "fire" Assemble Correctly
	Defective ammunition	Renmove and Discard
Firearm does not fire	Too much carbon on firing pin or in rhe firing pin recess	Clean
	Magazine not properly seated	Remove and re-insert magazine, ensuring it locks into place properly.
	Dirty bolt carrier group	Clean firearm or see certified armorer
Bolt won't unlock	Magazine not properly seated	Remove, re-insert, and verify that the magazine is fully seated Remove, re-insert, and verify that the magazine is fully seated



	Problem/Malfunction	Possible Cause	Solution
		Dirty or corroded ammunition	Remove and discard
		Dirty or defective magazine	Clean or replace
		Too many rounds in magazine	Remove excess
	Cartridge does not feed	Carbon in the chamber	
	properly or double feeds	Fouling or carbon in the extractor recess tip	Verify that the firearm is clean and properly lubricated.
		Seized extractor	and properly labilitated.
		Restricted movement of the bolt carrier	
		Dirty or defective magazine	Clean or replace
	Cartridge does not chamber properly	Defective ammunition	Remove and discard
	charmer property	Carbon in the chamber	Verify that the chamber is clean of debris.
		Poor ammunition	Use factory new ammo
	Short recoil	Fouling or carbon in upper receiver	Completely disassemble upper receiver and verify that it and the bolt carrier group is clean and properly lubricated.
Во	It fails tolock after last round	Dirty or corroded bolt latch or breech of barrel	Clean the bolt latch and check for full travel of the bolt carrier
		Dirty or defective magazine	Clean or replace
		Poor ammunition	Use only Factory new ammo

Problem/Malfunction	Possible Cause	Solution
Bolt carrier is hung Up	Round is jammed between the bolt and charging handle and/ or double feed	Remove the magazine, push in on the buttom of the bolt latch. While pointing the muzzle in a safe direction, pull down on the charging handle, tap the rifle butt on the ground. The bolt should lock to the rear. While the bolt is held to the rear, round should fall through the magazinewell.
Hammer drops but round	Firing pin obstructed	Verify that the firearm is clean and properly lubricated.
does not fire	Faulty ammunition	Use only Factory new ammo
	Routine maintenance needed	Contact Zenith Firearms
Selector lever binds	Dirt under the trigger	Clean
	Worn out extractor spring	Assess how many rounds have been fired since the extractor spring was last changed. Replace the extractor spring. Call the manufacturer for replacement intervals.
Cartridge does not extract	Dirty or corroded ammunition	
from the chamber	Carbon in the chamber	
	Fouling or carbon in the extractor recess tip	Verify that the firearm is clean and properly lubricated.
	Seized extractor	
Figure 43: Problems & Solutions	Restricted movement of the bolt carrier	

# ZENITH FIREARMS LIMITED LIFETIME WARRANTY

Zenith provides this express warranty, to the private, non-commercial, original owner for his or her lifetime. If you qualify, the warranty provides a remedy for manufacturer defects to your firearm by Zenith's choice of repair or replacement.

## **REGISTER YOUR ZF-56 ONLINE:** WWW.ZENITHFIREARMS.COM/WARRANTY YOUR **OBLIGATIONS:**

You must provide proof of original ownership. This warranty is only for the original owner. It is void unless you establish proof of such ownership in one of the following ways:

Show that upon purchasing your Zenith firearm, you registered it at:

zenithfirearms. com/warranty-registration-form OR Produce a receipt or other record of the purchase of your firearm that includes your name, your dealer's name, your firearm's serial number, the purchase date, and the price you paid. You must show that the original serial number is intact. Our warranty is void if your firearm's serial

### **WARRANTY LIMITATIONS:**

number is removed, altered, or illegible.

Zenith does not extend this warranty to cover any defects or problems that neither Zenith nor its vendors caused. Therefore, if one or a combination of the following, at Zenith's discretion, contributed to the problem with your firearm, Zenith will not repair the problem under the provisions of this warranty: Normal wear and tear relating to the age or usage of your firearm, Improper break-in, use, maintenance, or storage of your firearm, Failure to comply with instructions in the user manual (it is your duty to obtain your manual), Alteration of internal or mechanical parts, Accidents, Improper installation of parts or accessories, or Use of incompatible or suboptimal ammunition, parts, or accessories. Zenith decides if a problem with your firearm constitutes a manufacturer defect or if it falls into

one of the above limitations of this warranty. Zenith also has sole discretion to define the words above.

### WARRANTY CLAIM PROCEDURES:

You must follow these steps: If you encounter a problem with your firearm that you believe constitutes a manufacturer 's defect in materials or workmanship: Complete and submit a warranty claim form on our website:

https://zenithfirearms.com/zenith-warranty

Within 1-3 business day, Zenith will contact you for a further discussion or advise you on your next steps. Please call: 434-202-7790, if you are not contacted within this time frame. DO NOT ship your firearm to us before receiving a confirmation to do so from a member of our customer service team. Costs for shipping: If our warranty department substantiates your claim, Zenith will cover the cost of return shipping.

### **EXCLUSIVE WARRANTY AND LEGAL RIGHTS:**

This is Zenith's only express warranty. In its scope it supersedes all other representations made by Zenith or Zenith staff members.

The only remedy to which Zenith is obliged under this warranty is repair, provided all other conditions are met. Zenith DISCLAIMS ALL IMPLIED WARRANTIES FOR MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR PARTICULAR USE. Zenith Firearms is NOT LIABLE FOR INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES arising from or in connection with this express warranty or use of merchandise.

Your legal rights: Our warranty gives you specific legal rights, though you may also have other rights, which vary from state to state, as some jurisdictions do not allow limitations on certain damages and warranties.

### **OUESTIONS?**

Call (434) 202-7790 or send an email to warranty@zenithfirearms.com

# **ZF-56 FIRING LOG**

Date purchased:	Purchased from:	
Serial#:		

date	user	rounds fired	total rounds fired	notes / repairs

date user rounds fired total rounds fired notes / repairs



date	user	rounds fired	total rounds fired	notes / repairs



date	user	rounds fired	total rounds fired	notes / repairs
	l .			