It might be Renegade doesn't work in Windows Vista for you. If so, try these solutions:

* run game.exe, game2.exe (if you have renguard) and wwconfig.exe in admin mode and Windows XP SP2 compatibility mode

* if above solution doesn't work: try downloading Renegade ressurection (RR) from here. Attention: this mod also changes some other things, so check the change list first.

Edit: attention! There seems to be a bug left in RR which sometimes makes your FPS drop to 0, hence disconnect, hence crash :-S.