

- Home Page
- World
- U.S.
- Weather
- Business at [CNNMoney](#)
- Sports at [SI.com](#)
- Analysis at [Time.com](#)
- Politics
- Law
- Technology
- Science & Space
- Health
- Entertainment
- Offbeat
- Travel
- Education
- Special Reports
- Video
- Autos with [Edmunds.com](#)
- I-Reports

Security critic reveals details of 2001 raid

Alcoholic U.S. marshal bagged author of antivirus rootkit

Monday, February 26, 2007 Posted: 8:47 AM EST (1347 GMT)

WELLMAN, IOWA — It took nearly six years, but noted computer security critic Rob Rosenberger has finally given his side of the story about a [federal raid on his home](#) in 2001. "U.S. marshal John McClane led the team of heavily armed police that broke down my door at 3am," he revealed in an exclusive interview with *Government Computer News*.

McClane is now on the short list to replace Greg Garcia as the Assistant Secretary for Cybersecurity at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. [Click here](#) for McClane's Wikipedia biography.

Rosenberger admits he was about to release an update for his "[ADVEIS](#)" [antivirus rootkit](#) at the time of his arrest. "The antivirus industry didn't like how I could take over any server running their products," he explained. "One prominent member of the industry happened to attend the same Alcoholics Anonymous meetings with McClane, and he said I should be arrested for writing a rootkit that attacks antivirus software. Next thing you know, I'm face down on the floor, wearing a pair of handcuffs, and McClane is shoving a gun barrel into my cheek."

Rosenberger admitted his "big mouth" nearly got him killed. "I said 'dude, you smell like you just rammed your car into a helicopter or something.' He pistol-whipped me over that remark and the gun went off. The bullet took out a brand-new monitor."

It was the accidental discharge that kept Rosenberger from going to prison. "McClane's team got all flustered and they went off to talk privately in my living room. I shouted out something like 'I'll be taking a nap in the foyer if you need me.' They said they'd drop all charges if I agreed not to report the gunshot. Next thing you know, the cuffs are off and McClane is hightailing it out of my subdivision."

SERVICES

- E-mails
- RSS
- Podcasts
- CNNtoGO
- CNN Pipeline

SEARCH

WEB CNN.COM

Search

powered by **YAHOO!** SEARCH